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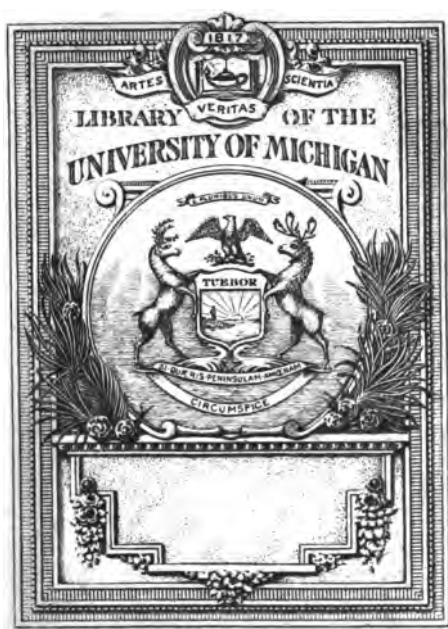
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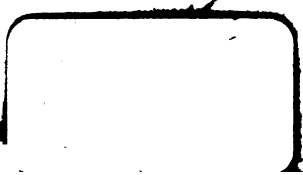
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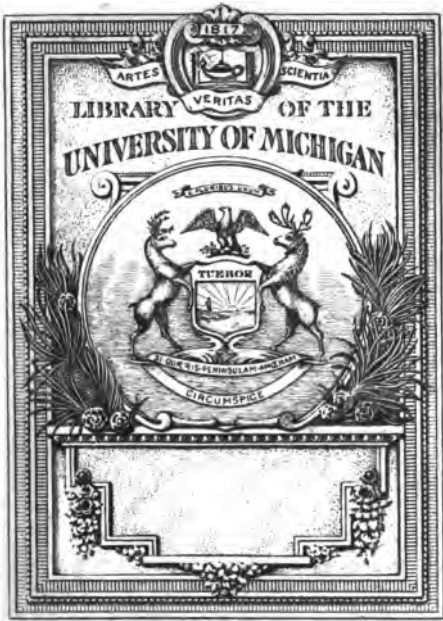
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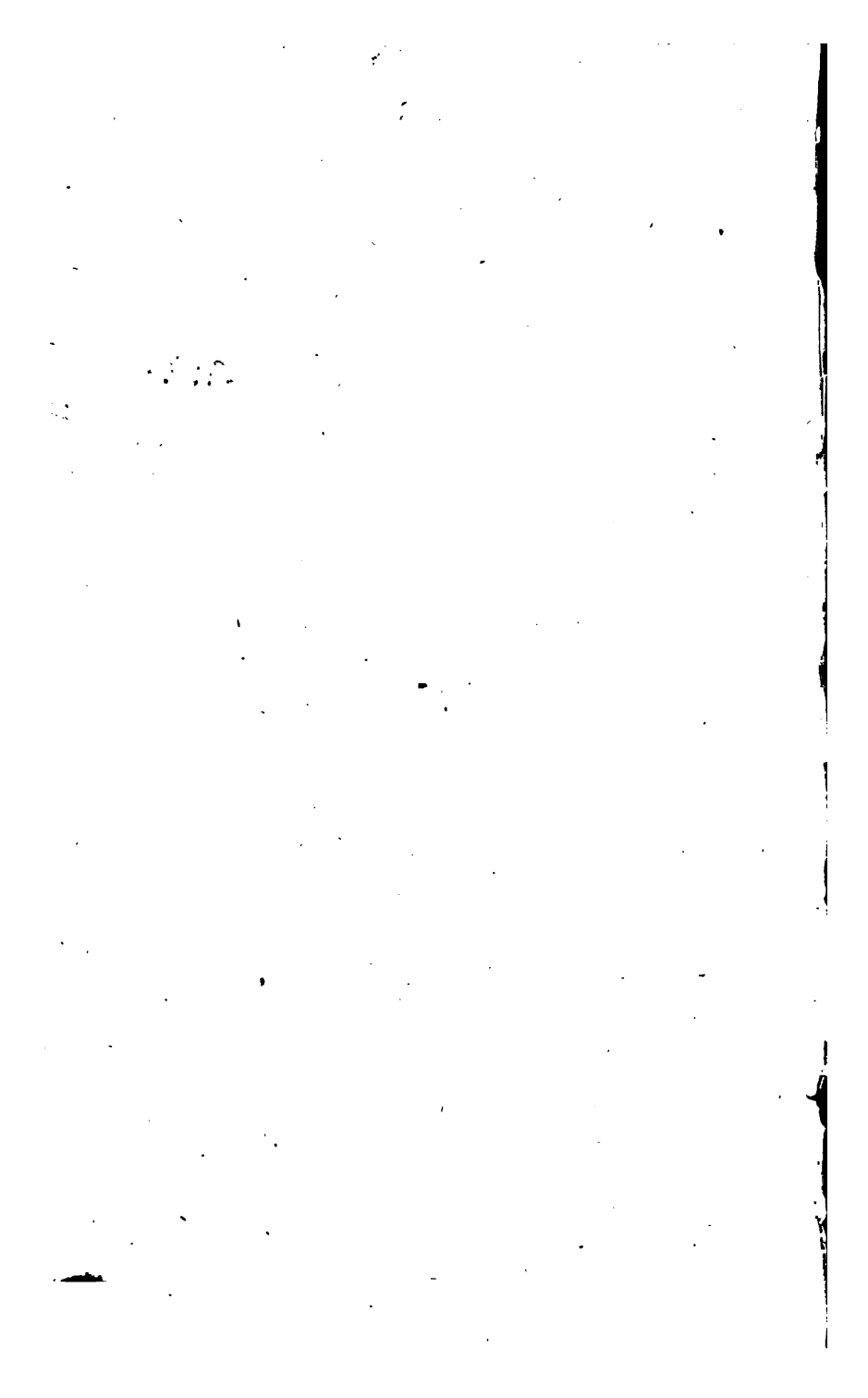
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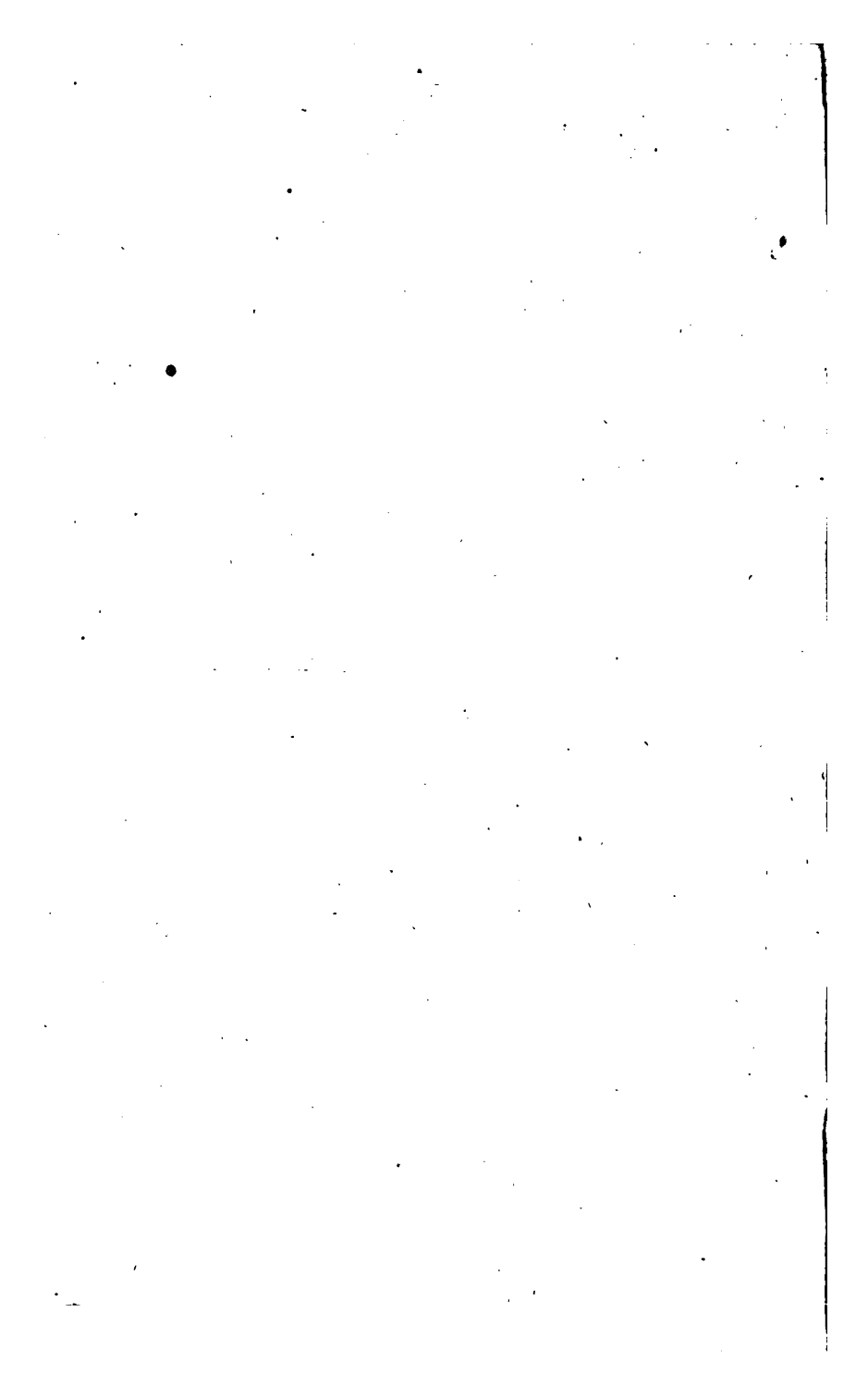
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AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF  
*SWITZERLAND.*

Written in the YEAR 1714.



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Printed for *Jacob Tonson*, at *Shakespear's Head*,  
over-against *Catherine-street* in the *Strand*.

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# THE P R E F A C E.

**I** HAVE often wonder'd, that a Country situated almost in the Middle of *Europe*, as *Switzerland* is, should be so little known, that not only the Generality of People have scarce any Idea of it, but that even some Men bred up to Foreign Affairs, hardly know the Names of the several Cantons, or of what Religion they are.

I cannot impute this general Ignorance of the Country, to the Contempt many People have for it, but must rather attribute their Contempt to their Ignorance of it; since those who are acquainted with the *Switzers*, know that they have no small Influence

## The P R E F A C E.

fluence on the Affairs of *Europe*, as well by their Situation between the *Empire, France* and *Italy*, as by their Warlike Genius; and it is certain, that the *French*, who know them best, court them most.

It seems therefore most reasonable to ascribe the little Knowledge Strangers have of this Country, chiefly to the Want of good Writers, who were thoroughly acquainted with the History and Governments of this People.

*Simler*, an Author of *Zurich*, is the best of them that I have yet heard of. He is very particular in the Description of the Country, and of their Governments, as they were Established in his Time; but besides, that he gives scarce any Account of the State of the Cantons, before their Revolt from the House of *Austria*, both the Face of the Country, and their Forms of Government, have undergone such Changes since he  
writ,

## The P R E F A C E.

writes, that his Book cannot give the Reader a true Notion of their Present State.

*Plantin of Laufanne* is another Author, who writ a History of *Switzerland* about threescore Years ago; but it may more properly be called an Extract of *Simler* and *Stettler's* Chronicle translated into *French*, than a new Work; so that having the same Defect as his Originals, he can give no greater Light to a Modern Reader, than those, from whom he borrowed it.

Several others have also written on this Subject in the *German* Language; but besides that they are liable to the same Objections as the former, their Works are in a Tongue which is not generally understood, and therefore cannot be of general Use.

There is indeed an Account of *Switzerland*, written few Years ago  
by

## The P R E F A C E.

by a Resident of *Venice*, who lived some time in the Country. This Gentleman has without doubt Talents superior to a Work of this Nature; yet, for Reasons best known to himself, the Remarks he has Published, are so general, that they will not satisfy a curious Enquirer.

Finding therefore, that there is no distinct Account yet extant of the Modern State of this Country, I thought it might be worth while, to publish the Observations I made upon it, while I lived there, both to make it better known to us, and to remove some Prejudices, which are taken upon Trust from other Nations, and have no real Foundation.

The Duty of my Employment obliged me to be inquisitive; and a Residence of above eight Years has afforded me sufficient Opportunities of informing my self fully about it; however I am far from thinking, that  
nothing

## *The P R E F A C E.*

nothing worthy Remark has escap'd my Observation. I am satisfy'd, that it is very difficult for a Stranger, to discover all that is remarkable in any Country, and perhaps as hard to treat of so many different Subjects, with such Care, as to omit nothing that is Material; at least I am not vain enough, to fancy this Work is brought to so great a Degree of Perfection. All that I can say on that Subject, is, that I have used my utmost Endeavours to be exact in the Matters I treat of, and flatter my self, that I have given a more compleat View of the Present State of that People, and their Governments, than any Author that has yet writ of them. At least, I hope that my Attempt will produce so good an Effect, as to incite some abler Pen to rectifie my Mistakes, and to give the World a more finished Account of this Country.

T H E

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T H E

C O N T E N T S.

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A C C O U N T  
O F  
S W I T Z E R L A N D.

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C H A P. I.

*Of the Situation of Switzerland.*

**T**HE Country now possessed by the *Switzers*, the *Grisons* and their other Allies, is properly situated between the Territories of the *Empire* and of *France*; being bounded on the East by the County of *Tyrol*; on the West by the County of *Burgundy* or *Franche Comté*; on the North by that Part of *Alsatia* called the *Suntgaw*; the *Black-Forest*; and part of the Circle of *Suabia*; and

B O R

on the South by the Dutchy of *Savoy*, the Valley of *Aost*, the Dutchy of *Milan*, and the Provinces of *Bergamo* and *Brescia*, all which make the Southern Border of that Country. It extends it self in the greatest Breadth near two Degrees of Latitude, reaching from forty five Degrees and three Quarters, to above forty seven and an half, and about four Degrees and an half of Longitude; by which Calculation its Length will be about two hundred and seventy *English* Miles, and its Breadth above an hundred. It was called *Helvetia* by the ancient *Romans*, and still retains the same Name in *Italian*; tho' Parcels of some Provinces of *Italy* and of *Gaut* are now annex'd to it, which certainly were not included in the ancient *Helvetia*, according to its Limits set down by *Cesar* in his Commentary.

In marking the Boundaries of this Country, I have included those of the *Grisons* and of the *Valesians*: However my present Observations shall be confined to the *Thirteen Cantons* properly so called, designing to give a separate Account of the *Grisons*, and of their other Allies.

*Switzer-*

*Switzerland* is separated not only from its Neighbours, but almost every Canton from each other, by Ridges of Mountains, which serve them equally for natural Boundaries and Fortifications; and it is particularly divided from *Italy* by such a long Chain of *Alps*, that there is no passing from one Country to the other without crossing one of them. There are but four of these Mountains, by which one can pass from *Switzerland* into *Italy*, or at least no more that have beaten Roads commonly used by Travellers. One is the Mount *Cenis*, by which one passes into *Piedmont* thro' *Savoy*. The second is *St. Bernard*, which stands between the Country called the *Lower Valais*, and the Valley of *Aost*. The third is the *Sampion*, or *Samplon*, situate between the *Upper Valais*, and the Valley of *Ossola* in the *Milanese*. And the Fourth is the *St. Godard*, which leads from the Canton of *Ury* to *Bellinzona*, and the other *Swiss* Balliages in *Italy*, which were formerly part of the *Milanese*.

But tho' this Country be well known to be a mountainous one, they are very much mistaken, who fancy

their Mountains are naked Rocks, like those of *Genoa*: They are so different, that tho' the greatest Part of them be covered with Snow during the Winter, yet there are few that are barren; most of them afford good Pasture all the Summer, even to the Tops of them, for vast Multitudes of Cattle; and in some Places one sees Corn grow, where one would think the Ground too steep for Men to climb up, and the Air too sharp to allow the Corn to ripen.

This is the Condition of the most Mountainous Parts of *Switzerland*; but there are others rather Hilly than Mountainous; and some where one finds great Tracts of plain Champaign Country. The County of *Argaw* in the Canton of *Berne*, is a flat Corn Country; and that which lyes between *Mouldon* and *Morat* in the *Pais de Vaud*, is equally fertile, and affords a much gayer Prospect. I mention these two Plains as the most beautiful Parts of the Canton of *Berne*, tho' one may justly say, that more than two Thirds of that Canton in general is good Country, and produces Corn, not only in sufficient Quantity for its  
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## Chap. I. of Switzerland.

5

Inhabitants, but also in a great Measure to supply its Neighbours. The Cantons of *Zurich*, *Soleurre* and *Fribourg*, produce likewise good Quantities of Corn, as well as the little ones of *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen*, and may be called the Plains of *Switzerland*, if compared with the other Cantons. However it must be confess'd, that even in these Cantons, generally speaking, the Soil is stony and ungrateful, so that what the Inhabitants get out of it, is owing meerly to their Labour; and as Necessity begets Industry, so, I believe, it has made the *Switzers* the ablest Husbandmen in *Europe*.

In the other Cantons indeed, which are *Lucerne*, *Ury*, *Schwitz*, *Underwald*, *Zug*, *Glaris* and *Appenzell*, they have not Corn enough of their own Growth for the Use of their Inhabitants, and in some of them none at all; however the Surplus, that the other Cantons produce, would be able to supply the Want of it in these, if they could always reap in Proportion to what they sow. But the Mountains that surround them, are such Magazines of Rain, Hail and Tempests, that the Fruits of the Earth are frequently

blasted by Storms, or chilled by cold Rains; so that their Harvests are often bad, and sometimes totally fail. For this Reason it is, that *Switzerland* is every Year forc'd to buy more or less Corn of its Neighbours, and to erect Magazines of it in most of their Balliages, that they may be provided against a Dearth, and be able to supply the poorer sort of People with it at a moderate Price.

*Switzerland* affords all Sorts of Cattle in so great Numbers, that they are able to furnish their Neighbours with them; and they are so good in their Kinds, that the Vent of them makes the most beneficial Branch of their Trade. It abounds likewise with all Sorts of tame and wild Fowl, which latter being bred in the Mountains, have a richer Taste than those of the flat Countries. I may say the same of their Venison, under which general Name they comprehend wild Boars, as well as Stags and Deer, besides some others of the Wild-Goat kind, which are not known to us, such as *Bouquetins* and *Chamois*, of whose Skin is made the Leather which we call Shammy.

This

This Country produces several Sorts of Wine, particularly two, which are equally palatable and wholesome; one of white, which grows in the *Pais de Vaud* upon the Banks or Coast of the Lake of *Geneva*, from whence it is called *Vin de la Côte*, and another of Red, which grows in the County of *Neufchatel*. The white is neither too spirituous, nor too weak or acid, but when it is made in good Years, is an excellent Table-Wine, and improves by keeping. The Red has something of the Taste of *Burgundy*, but cannot come up to the Delicacy of the choicest Sorts. They make likewise Wine in the Cantons of *Zurich*, *Schaffhausen* and other Places, which the Inhabitants drink with Pleasure, but the Generality of Strangers reckon them little better than *Verjuice*. If the Vineyards of this Country were not so often blighted by disorderly Seasons, they would produce Wine enough for all the Inhabitants; but those Disasters are so frequent, that great Numbers of the common People are forced to content themselves with bad Beer.

It is believed, that this Country is much the highest of any Part of *Europe*, and two Reasons are chiefly alleged to justify that Opinion. First, The Sharpness of the Air, and secondly, The many Rivers that have their Source in it. As to the first, it is certain in Fact, that the Air is more keen and piercing, than in other more Northern Countries; but whether those Qualities in it may not proceed from the Hoards of Snow and Ice, which lye always in Caverns of the Mountains out of the reach of the Sun, more than from the natural Height of the Country, is a Question I shall not pretend to determine.

The second Reason drawn from the Number of Rivers that spring from these Mountains, is grounded upon an Hypothesis, that every River takes its Source in higher Ground, than that, thro' which it afterwards flows. It cannot be deny'd, that many large Rivers take their Rise in these Mountains, since one finds at a small Distance one from another the Sources of the *Ad-da*, the *Ticino*, the *Lintz*, the *Aar*, the *Rufs*, the *Inn*, the *Rhone* and the *Rhine*, besides which one may reckon  
the



the *Danube*; for tho' in Strictness it rises without the Limits of *Switzerland*, yet it is but few Leagues distant from *Schaffhausen*. The *Ill* is another River which has its Rise near *Bazil*, and tho' the Source of the *Adige* be properly in the County of *Tyrol*, yet it is upon the Confines of the *Grisons*.

These are the most considerable Rivers of *Europe*, that take their Rise in *Switzerland*; besides which there are a vast Number of less note; insomuch that there is scarce a Valley, that has not a Rivulet running through it. This extraordinary Number of Rivers in Proportion to what we find in other Countries of the same Extent, is brought as a convincing Argument of the natural Height of the Country.

I must not forget to mention the many Lakes that are found here. I remember to have counted near thirty, whereof some are so considerable, as to deserve the Name of Seas, as they are called in German; the Lakes of *Constance* and *Geneva* being near eighteen Leagues in Length, and four in Breadth, and those of *Neufchatel*, *Zurich* and *Lucerne* are not much inferior to them in Length. These Lakes  
abound

abound in Fish, especially Trouts of so prodigious a Size, that it is no extraordinary thing to take one of sixty Pound Weight, and what is more uncommon, the larger they are, the more firm and sweet the Flesh of them is.

Besides these Lakes that are in the Plains and Vallies, there is scarce a Mountain, that has not one on the Top of it well stored with Fish, by the Sale of which they make the Inhabitants some amends for the Loss of the Ground they overflow.

Upon the whole, I never saw an Inland Country, that abounds so much with Water as this. Where-ever one goes, one finds an infinite Number of Springs of the purest and sweetest Kind I ever tasted; and there is scarce a Field or Meadow, that may not be laid under Water, whenever the Husbandman thinks it necessary for the good of the Ground.

In every Part of this Country, both on the Mountains and Plains, there is a vast Number of Woods, and whole Forests of Firr-Trees and Pines, which would turn to good Account for Mafts and Shipping, if they grew in the Neighbourhood of the Sea; but that  
fort

fort of Traffick is impracticable by reason of the excessive Charge of Land-Carriage at so great a Distance. They have indeed some few Woods of Oaks, and fewer of Elms, but the Wood commonly made use of, both for building and firing, is Deal; so that considering they have no other Fuel than Wood, and that all the Peasants Houses are entirely built with it, one would think it should grow scarce; but it is so far otherwise, that one cannot perceive the least Diminution of the Stock.

I have already taken Notice of the Sharpness of the Air of this Country, in Proportion to the Latitude it lies in: For the City of *Berne* where I lived, is a full Degree South of *Orleans*, tho' the Air of that Place be much milder and softer; however I have pass'd some warm Summers in this Country, and have sometimes found the Heat very inconvenient. 'Tis true indeed, the Weather is subject to sudden Changes, and often passes from hot to cold in four and twenty Hours. The *Alps* send us frequent Rains; and as Rain in the flat Country is generally Snow upon the Mountains, the Air must needs grow cold,

cold, whenever we have a lasting Shower. But tho' the Air be not very dry, it is very wholesome: The People generally live to a great Age; and one never hears of any of those malignant Distempers raging in this Country, which often unpeople whole Cities in others.

In short, of the four Elements the Earth here is the worst; she treats the Inhabitants like a hard Step-Mother, gives them what is necessary for Life, but little for Luxury; they earn hard what they get out of her, and seem rather to owe it to their own Labour and Industry, than to her Bounty.

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## C H A P. II.

*Of its Former and Present State, as  
divided into Cantons.*

**I**T is not my Design to write the History of this Country, both because it is not necessary to my Purpose, and because I am wholly unprovided with Materials for such an Undertaking. I am of Opinion, that no Stranger ever writ the History of a Country with Exactness, because he cannot be well enough acquainted with the interiour part of its Government, to mark out the true Springs and Causes of its publick Actions. And as to this Country in particular, I will be bold to say, such a Work is now become as hard for a Native as for a Stranger; because their Ancestors have left them no good Accounts of their Actions, nor any Records to have recourse to, without which it is impossible to write a good History of

a

a past Age. They have indeed some Chronicle-makers, who assume the Title of Historians, but without any other Pretence to it, than as Chronologers, who mark the Epochs of extraordinary Actions, but give no Accounts of the Occasion of them, nor inform the Reader of the Circumstances and Incidents that attended them; which alone can make their Narrations Agreeable and Profitable.

Since therefore there is so great a want of Writers, to light one thro' the dark Ages of their History, I shall chuse to relate such general Facts only, as all their Authors agree in, rather than enter into more particular Accounts of it, which must be necessarily grounded upon Tradition and Conjecture; and content my self with giving as much Information about their former State, as may serve to discover the Causes of their Revolt from the Empire, which gave Rise and Birth to Thirteen Commonwealths, or Cantons, into which this Country now stands divided.

The first remarkable Mention we find made of these People, as a Nation, is by *Julius Cæsar*, who in the first Book of his Commentaries relates  
the

the War he waged with the *Helvetians*, who made an Irruption into *Burgundy* during his Government in *Gaul*, with a Design to transplant themselves into a more delightful Country, and more capable to contain their vast Swarms. The better to effect this Design, he says, they set Fire to all their Habitations, and actually burnt Twelve great Cities, and Four hundred Villages, in order to destroy all hopes of returning Home; after which they began their March with their Wives and Children, amounting in all to above Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand Persons, whereof near a Hundred Thousand were able to bear Arms. They intended to have broke into his Government through *Savoy*; but not being able to pass the *Rhone* in the Sight of his Army, which was encampt on the other Side of it, they changed their Route, and penetrated by *Franche Comté*; but *Cæsar* with his Army pursuing them, several Skirmishes happen'd with various Success, 'till at last he entirely defeated them in a pitch'd Battle, forced the remainder of 'em to return home, and reduced their Country to the Obedience of the *Romans*,  
annex-

annexing it to that part of his Government, which was called *Gallia Celtica*:

They liv'd in Subjection to the *Roman* Government, 'till that Empire it self was broke to Pieces by the Inundations of the Northern Nations, and new Kingdoms and Principalities were raised out of the Ruins of it. Among the rest was erected the Kingdom of *Burgundy*, of which *Switzerland* made a Part, about the Beginning of the fifth Century, by a Prince call'd *Gaudicarius*, reckoned the First of their Kings. But this Kingdom did not Subsist long, before it was united to the Crown of *France*, upon the Death of the Sixth and last King of that Race. This happen'd a little above an hundred Years after its Erection; from which time, to the beginning of the Ninth Century, this Country was subject to the Kings of *France*. About the Year 870 there sprung up again two New Kingdoms of *Burgundy*; one called *Burgundia Cisjurana*, which is the same as the Kingdom of *Arles*, and the other *Transjurana*. The First did not last above fifty Years; after which it was united to the *Transjurana* by the voluntary



luntary Cession made to *Rodolph* the Second King of the *Transjurana*, by *Hugh* the last King of the *Cisjurana*, about the Year 926. In this Kingdom of *Burgundia Transjurana* was comprehended the Country of *Switzerland*, and continued Part of it 'till about 1032, when *Rodolph* the Third the last King of *Burgundy* dying without Children, left all this Kingdom to the Emperour *Conrad* the Second, called the *Salick*, whose Successors enjoy'd it near two Ages; after which time, whether they were so taken up with other Wars and Affairs, that they could not give the necessary Attention to those of this Kingdom, or whether they were not able to suppress the many Insurrections made in it by the too powerful Nobility, it so happened, that about the end of the twelfth Century this Kingdom was again broke into several petty Sovereignties under the Counts of *Burgundy*, of *Maurienne*, of *Savoy*, and of *Provence*; the Dauphins of the *Viennois*, and the Dukes of *Zeringhen*.

This is the general Opinion of the greater Part of their Historians concerning the Fate of *Switzerland*, from

the time of *Julius Caesar* to the end of the twelfth Century, when that Country was united to the Empire; tho' there are others, who pretend, that *Switzerland* made part of the Kingdom of *Austrasia*, otherwise called the Kingdom of *Metz*, 'till it was dissolved, and its States annexed to the Empire. I believe it will not be difficult to reconcile these seeming Contradictions: For it is very probable, that the Country of *Switzerland* in its present Extent, was never wholly join'd either to the Kingdom of *Burgundy*, or to that of *Austrasia*; but that one Part of it, that speaks the *French* or *Roman* Language, as they call it, belonged to the Kingdom of *Burgundy*, and the other, which speaks the *German* Tongue, to that of *Austrasia*. This Conjecture might be supported by several Reasons besides that of the Difference of the Language, and seems to solve the Difficulties, with which their Historians puzzle one, by making *Switzerland* part of two several Kingdoms at the same time.

Upon the Dissolution of these Kingdoms, I do not find that *Switzerland* was any more united under one Head.

Some

Some Cities were made Free and Imperial, reserving only their Dependence on the Empire; others, with the adjoining Territory, were given by the Emperor *Frederick Barbarossa*, to be held as Fiefs of the Empire, to the Counts of *Habsburg*, from whom the House of *Austria* is descended; and the rest, at least the Hereditary Government of them, was given to the Duke of *Zeringhen*, who was thought to have a sort of Right to them, as being descended from the Kings of *Austrasia*. However all their Historians agree, that these Cities and People were in Possession of very great Privileges, and that the Power of these Princes, to whom they were thus subjected, was so limited, that the Country might more properly be said to be under their Protection, than their immediate Dominion.

In the Thirteenth Century the Race of the Dukes of *Zeringhen* became extinct, which made way for the Counts of *Habsburg* to enlarge their Authority in this Country, more by Intrusion, and the Necessity of those disorderly Times, than by a voluntary Submission and Consent. For what endangered

most the Liberty of this Country, was the Schism that arose, and divided the Empire in the Thirteenth Century, when *Otho* the Fourth and *Frederick* the Second were both Emperors together, and both by Turns excommunicated by two succeeding Popes, because neither would acknowledge their pretended Right of disposing of the Imperial Crown, nor perform the Vows those Popes had extorted from them, of undertaking a Croisade to the *Holy Land*. *Otho* however was forced to give up his Cause after the Loss of a Battle, and yield the Crown to his Antagonist *Frederick*. As in this Division of the Empire, the *Switzers* had adhered to his Party, and done him good Services, he gave them Additional Privileges, and did what lay in his Power to secure their Liberty: However the rest of his Reign was tumultuous; he quarrel'd again with the Pope, by whom he was excommunicated: And as both the Empire and its Dependencies in *Italy* were divided into two Factions, one for the Pope and t'other for the Emperor, 'twas in this Princes Reign, that the Names given to those two Parties of  
*Guelpbs*

*Guelfs* and *Gibellins* were first known.

The Historians of these Times cannot find Terms forcible enough to express the Disorder and Confusion, that reigned in the Empire at the latter End of this *Fredericks* Life, while he was under Excommunication, and during the Interregnum of twenty eight Years after his Death, 'till *Rodolph* of *Habsburg* first Emperor of the House of *Austria* was quietly settled in the Imperial Throne. They tell you, that in those Times all Order and Government were overturned, and that the Empire was fallen into a perfect State of Anarchy. The Cities of *Switzerland* in particular felt the ill Effects of this Confusion; for as that Country was full of Nobility and powerful Ecclesiasticks, each play'd the Tyrant in his Turn, and endeavour'd to subdue some neighbouring City, under Pretence, that they were Adherents of the Emperor who was excommunicated. and the Lands of all his Partizans forfeited to any Body, that could take Possession of them by vertue of the Pope's Bull. This sort of Oppression gave Rise to a Custom, which obtain'd at

that time among several Cities of *Germany*, as well as of this Country, of entering into Confederacy one with another for their mutual Defence; of which we have an Example in *Simler's* History, where he recites at length the Alliance made between *Zurich*, *Ury* and *Schwitz* in the Year 1251. But this Union of the Cities not producing the good Effects that were expected from it, or at least not being a sufficient Barrier against the Power of the Nobility, they were forced to make use of another Expedient, which was that of putting themselves under the Protection of some powerful Neighbouring Prince. Accordingly most of the Free Cities of *Switzerland* had Recourse at this Juncture to *Rodolph* of *Habsburg*, the most potent of their Neighbours, declaring him their Protector, for which they allowed him a yearly Salary, and permitted him to send Bailiffs or Governours among them, with Power to administer the *Haute Justice*, as it is called, or to Judge in Criminal Causes only, with an express Reservation of their Rights and Liberties in all other Matters. Particularly the three  
Cantons

Cantons of *Ury, Schwitz* and *Underwald*, who had hitherto lived free from any Dependence, but on the Empire in general, thought it for their Interest in this general Disorder, to do as the rest; and accordingly they submitted to *Rodolph's* Protection, and receiv'd Governors with the same Restrictions as the others. But neither did this Project answer Expectation: For *Rodolph* was so much taken up with other Affairs, that he could not give those Cities the Protection he intended, and they expected from him. So that the *Switzers* being deprived of his Support, were again exposed to the Insults of these petty Tyrants, which at last became so grievous to the People, that the whole Country rose up in Arms, and in their Fury not only demolished the Castles of the chief of the Nobility, but likewise drove many of them out of the Country, in a War between them, which lasted near twelve Years. When *Rodolph* became Emperor, the Nobility accused the *Switzers* of Rebellion upon the Account of this War; but he, after having heard both Parties, pronounced Sentence in

favour of the People, and in consideration of their good Services to him in his Wars, sent Bailifs among them, not in the Name of the House of *Austria*, but of the Empire; and not only govern'd them with Mildness while he lived, but increas'd their Privileges, in order to settle their Liberty upon a lasting Foundation.

Before I proceed to give an Account of the Tyrannical Government of the Emperor *Albert* Son of *Rodolph*, which occasion'd the Revolt of this Country from the Empire, it would be very proper to draw a Political Map (if I may so say) of its Government; and not only to distinguish the Cities, that were under the Dominion of the House of *Austria*, and of other Sovereigns, from those that were Free, and acknowledged their Dependence only on the Empire in general; but also to specify the Privileges, which those that were under the House of *Austria*, stood possess'd of, as well as of the Degrees of Power, with which their Governors or Sovereigns were invested. Such a View of their Political State before their Revolt, would be necessary to form a true Judgment



Judgment of the Justice of their Cause, and of the Means they used to recover their Liberty; but their Historians are so obscure and defective in those Particulars, that it is not possible to satisfy one's Curiosity about them. What can be collected in general from them, is, that most of their Cities were Free and Imperial, and that such of them as were not, enjoy'd great Privileges: The Cities of *Berne* and *Fribourg* were built by a Duke of *Zeringben*, and by the last of that Race endowed with so great Liberties, that he allowed them to govern themselves, and upon his Death annexed them to the Empire. However, contrary to his Testamentary Disposition, *Fribourg* fell, I know not how, to the Share of the Counts of *Kybourg*, one whereof sold it to the Emperor *Rodolph*; so that it continued under the Dominion of the House of *Austria* near two hundred Years, 'till it entered into the Alliance of the Cantons, and became one of them. Those Cities and Countries, that were given in Fief to the House of *Austria*, such as *Lucerne*, *Zug* and *Glaris* with their Cantons, enjoy'd so great Immunities, that

that the Power of the Sovereign was very much limited. *Zurich, Bazil* and *Schaffhausen* were Imperial Cities, and never, that I can find, were subject to any particular Prince. *Bazil* indeed had a Bishop, who assumed the Title of their Sovereign, and acted sometimes as such, tho' more by Encroachment, than lawful Authority; and as for the three Cantons of *Ury, Schwitz* and *Underwald*, it does not appear to me, that they ever had any Dependence on the House of *Austria*, but as they chose *Rodolph* of *Habsburg* for their Protector, as well as most of the Cities of *Switzerland*, in the Manner, and for the Reasons I have already mentioned.

It is to be observed, that the Dominion of these Cities, for the most part, extended little beyond their Walls at that time, and that they were surrounded with Nobility, who watching all Opportunities of invading their Liberty, gave them more Trouble, and occasioned more Wars before they could root them out, than the whole Power of the House of *Austria*, and all its Attempts to reduce them to Obedience.

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That most of these Cities were Free, appears very plainly from the several Treaties of Alliance made between them for their Mutual Defence, long before this Revolt happened, whereof many are set down at length in their Historians; and it seems to me as plain, that those Cities and Countries depended only on the Empire directly, 'till the Disorders that happen'd in it obliged them to seek some new Protection. The Counts of *Habsburg* indeed held some part of the Country as a Fief of the Empire, which was given to one of them by *Frederick Barbarossa*, but their Power was extremely limited; which makes it highly probable, that the Dominion they gain'd over this People, was meer Usurpation upon the Liberties of those they undertook to defend; and that under the Notion of that Protection, they were furnished with better Means, and more plausible Pretexs of bringing about their Designs.

Having thus briefly hinted what I thought proper to be premised, I shall go on to relate the Oppressions that gave Occasion to their Revolt, as far as I can trace them in their most Authentick  
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Writings. I have already said, that the Emperor *Rodolph* treated *Switzerland* with great Mildness, and was thought to have a particular Affection for it as his native Country; but his Son the Emperor *Albert*, instead of treading in his Father's Steps, took opposite Measures, and so by grasping at greater Dominion than belonged to him, lost that by Violence and Rashness, which his Predecessor had acquired by Gentleness and Prudence. This Prince had a numerous Offspring, and form'd the Design of subduing all *Switzerland* to the House of *Austria*, in order to erect it into a Principality for one of his younger Sons. To bring about this Project, soon after he came to the Imperial Throne, he try'd by Flattery and Caresses, to perswade the three Cantons of *Ury*, *Schwitz* and *Underwald*, (who were the most tenacious of their Liberty) voluntarily to submit to his Government, and follow the Example of the Cantons of *Lucerne*, *Zug* and *Glaris*, promising them in that Case all kind Treatment and a gentle Government: But finding these Arts successless, he appointed one *Grisser* to be Governor of  
*Ury*,

*Ury*, and another call'd *Landenberg*, of *Schwitz* and *Underwald*. These Governors he set over them, with Orders to use their utmost Endeavours to subject them entirely to his Obedience, either by corrupting the leading Men among 'em, or in case that Method fail'd, to do it by Force of Arms. Accordingly the Governors at first proceeded not only with great Moderation, but put in Practice all the little Arts made use of to gain the Affections of the People, 'till they saw there was nothing to be done by fair Means, and then they began to use them roughly, and every Day to encroach upon their Privileges. Upon this the People send Deputies to the Emperor, to complain of their Governors, and of the Violation of their Liberties. The Emperor receives them very harshly, offers them again all kind of good Usage, if they will submit to his Government, but in case of Refusal, threatens to pursue them with the utmost Vengeance, and to subdue them by the Sword. The Deputies answer, that they are ready to pay all Obedience to him as the Head of the Empire, whereof they are Mem-  
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bers, but that they are otherwise a Free People, independent of any particular Sovereign, and desire him to confirm them in the Liberties and Privileges, that had been granted them by several of his Predecessors; which the Emperour flatly refuses, and so dismisses them. With this Answer the Deputies return home, and the Governours then break out into such horrid Acts of Tyranny, as can serve only to provoke, and never to subdue Mens Minds. They gave a loose to all their Passions at once, by ravishing, plundering and imprisoning; and in short, ran into all kinds of Excess, that might gratifie their Lust and Avarice. For the Excuse of these Disorders, they had at least the Plea of satisfying their Passions; but they committed besides such Acts of Cruelty under Pretence of Justice, as shock human Nature, especially upon those who had most Credit with the People, and as such, were supposed to be the Cause of their Refusal to submit to the Emperour's Government. They took away People's Estates by arbitrary Sentences, without hearing the Parties concerned; imposed extravagant Fines for trivial Offences,

fences, beyond the Ability of paying, punish'd People upon Suspicion, with torturing their Limbs, and putting out their Eyes, and in short exercis'd all the refined Barbarities, that the most industrious Ministers of a Tyrant's Wrath could invent. It is not to be doubted, but such inhuman Treatment inflamed the Minds of the People against their Governors; however the fear of Punishment kept them in Awe, and the want of Power to throw off the Yoke, made them bear it with a fullen Silence, 'till a fair Opportunity presented. The Violence of these Governors increas'd daily by Success and Impunity, and grew at last to such an height, that the exasperated People finding no hopes of Safety but from their Courage, were forc'd to enter into a Confederacy for their Common Security, and to agree among themselves upon the proper Measures to deliver them from their Bondage.

There were three Men of these three Cantons, whereof each was the most popular of his Canton, and for that Reason were the particular Objects of the Governor's Persecution. Their Names are *Arnold Melchtal* of *Underwald,*

wald, *Wernher Stouffacher* of *Schwitz*, and *Walter Furst* of *Ury*. These three were rather Substantial Farmers than Gentlemen; but having been alike inhumanly treated by the Governors, being bold in their Tempers, and joyn'd in a long Friendship, which was increas'd by their common Misfortunes, they had private Meetings to consider of Ways of freeing their Country, and in a little time entred into a Conspiracy for that Purpose, engaging themselves by Oath to keep it secret, and to draw as many more into it, each in his own Canton, as they knew they might confide in, and were resolute enough to join in the Execution of what should be agreed on. Accordingly, in a little time they engaged several of their Friends in the same Design, and appointed a Meeting at a Place called *Grütli* in the Canton of *Ury*, each accompany'd by three new Associates of his Canton, who all together became the Twelve Managers of the Enterprize. Here their Confederacy was renew'd by Oath, and a Resolution taken of forming a General Insurrection in each Canton, in order to Surprize and Demolish all the Castles



Castles of any Strength, and drive the Governors and their Adherents out of the Country. At the next meeting of the Twelve, they found the Number of their Associates sufficient for their purpose; wherefore it was press'd to appoint the 14th of *October* of the Year 1307 for the general Insurrection, least the Secret being trusted to so many, might get Vent, and their Plot miscarry. But those of *Underwald* representing to the Assembly, that two Castles in their Canton, call'd *Sarn* and *Rotzberg*, were too strong to be forced by a disorderly Multitude, desired more time to form some Stratagem for Surprizing them, since if they failed in their Design upon those two Places, they would soon be fill'd with Soldiers by the Governors, who would be able to make a Stand there, 'till the Emperor could send an Army to their Relief, and so by that Means their Enterprize would be totally defeated. These Considerations prevailed with the Assembly to put off the Insurrection to the First of *January* 1308, to which Day it was fix'd. After that they dispersed, and each Member return'd home to prepare matters for the

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Execution. In the mean time an Accident fell out, that might have render'd the Design abortive, if the Governors had not been lull'd into Security, by the appearing Submission of the People; or if the Conspirators had been imprudent enough, to lay hold of the Alarm this Accident caused, by attempting their Design before the Day appointed.

The Occasion of the Alarm was this. Among the many ridiculous Pieces of Tyranny exercised by these Governors, *Grisler of Ury* invented one, more like a Frolick of *Claudius*, *Caligula* or *Phalaris*, than an Act of Justice. He caused a Pole to be erected in the Market Place of *Attorff* the Capital of *Ury*, upon which he hung his Cap, and publish'd an Order, commanding every body on Pain of Death to Salute it, by pulling off his, and bending his Knee as he pass'd before it, with the same Respect, as if he were there in Person. The People, for fear of Punishment, were forc'd to comply with this kind of Idolatrous Ceremony, till one *William Tell*, a sturdy Youth, and one of the Conspirators pass'd often by, without paying his  
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spects to the Cap; whereof the Governor being inform'd, sent for him, and asked him the Reason of his Disobedience. *Tell* would have excused himself upon his Rusticity and Ignorance of the Order, but being a suspected Person, the Governor would not admit of his Excuses; and sending for one of his favourite Sons, condemn'd him, by way of Punishment, (because he was a good Bow-man) to shoot at a considerable distance with an Arrow at an Apple placed upon his Son's Head, declaring at the same time, that if he mist it, he should be immediately Hanged. The fond Father, for fear of killing his Son, refused to make the Tryal, and offered rather to submit to Death himself; but the Governor would not accept his Offer, and to force him to comply, told him, that if he did not immediately obey his Sentence, he would hang up the Son as well as himself. The Father finding he could gain nothing by his Intreaties, and more out of a Desire of saving his Son's Life than his own, submitted to make the Experiment in the Market-place, in the Presence of the Governor, and of

a multitude of People drawn together, to see so whimsical an Act of Justice. The poor Man took his Arrows out of the Quiver, and with a trembling Hand drew his Bow; however, either by Skill or good Luck, he shot the Apple off his Son's Head without hurting him; upon which the People raised a general Shout, both for joy of his Escape, and in applause of his Dexterity. The Governor vext, that *Tell* had so artfully escap'd his Vengeance, was resolv'd to entrap him another way; and therefore having observed, that he had two Arrows stuck in his Girdle, tho' he was to have but one Shot, ask'd him the Reason of it, and promised to forgive him whatever his Design was. Upon this Assurance, *Tell* very frankly answer'd in the fulness of his Resentment, that he drew two Arrows out of his Quiver, with a firm Resolution of killing him with the second, if he had been so unfortunate, as to kill his Son with the first. The Governor enraged at his Answer, told him, he would spare his Life for his Dexterity, according to his Promise, but that for his felonious Intention he should spend it in a dark Prison; and thereupon immediately order'd him

to be bound, and put on Board a Boat, that was to carry him to his Prison at *Cussenach* a Castle on the Lake of *Lucerne*, he himself going with him in the Boat, to see his Sentence executed. When they had sailed about half way up the Lake, so violent a Storm arose, that they were in great danger of splitting upon the Rocks, because none of the Boatmen knew how to steer in so rough Water. In this Extremity, one of the Governor's Servants, who knew that *Tell* was reckoned the best Waterman in the Country, told his Master, that there was no way of saving their Lives, unless he would allow them to unbind *Tell*, and put him at the Helm. The Governor consented to it, and it was accordingly done. *Tell* with much ado steer'd the Boat from the middle of the Lake, where the Waves ran highest, and made towards the Shore, near which there lay a Piece of a Rock, whereof the Top was above the Water; and finding that a fit Opportunity of making his Escape, he slyly step'd out upon that Rock, shov'd the Boat with his Foot back again into the Lake, and from thence got ashore among the Mountains. The Governor in the mean time was tofs'd

about the Lake with great Hazard of his Life; however with much ado the Boat reached a Place call'd *Brünnen*, where he and his Retinue went ashore; from whence he designed to go to *Cussenach* by Land. *Tell* having Notice of his Design, lay in wait for him upon the Road, hiding himself among the Bushes; and as the Governor pass'd in a hollow Way, shot him thro' the Heart with an Arrow, and left him dead upon the spot. He in the mean time escaped, and got out of Reach, before any of the Governor's Retinue could tell which way to pursue him.

In memory of these two Actions, a little Chappel was built upon the Spot of Ground, where the Governour was killed, and another upon the Rock, where *Tell* made his Escape out of the Boat; both which are still preserved entire. The Death of the Governor was immediately noised all over the Country, while *Tell* got home again, to inform his Friends of what he had done, and press'd them to begin their Insurrection without further loss of time, least the other Governor and his Adherents, upon this Alarm, should suspect some further Mischief, and take measures to prevent it. But the more  
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prudent of the Conspirators, finding the Government look'd upon this Action of *Tell's*, as the Resentment only of a Private Man, thought it more proper for the Reasons alledged by those of *Underwald*, to lye quiet 'till the Day appointed came; in the mean time, the other Governor made no further Reflection on this Action, than by making Search for *Tell*, who lay hid 'till the Insurrection broke out. Thus the Prudence of the Conspirators, and the Blindness of the Governor concurr'd to bring about the Revolution, since the Secret, tho' entrusted to many Persons, was kept so faithfully, that the Governor had not the least Suspicion of the Plot, before it was executed.

The first of *January* 1308, which was the Day appointed, being come, the Confederates pursued so well the Measures agreed on, that at the same time the Rising was general in the Three Cantons. Those of *Underwald* surprized both the Castles of *Sarn* and *Rotzberg* by the same Stratagem, of sending into them a sufficient Number of Resolute Men in the Habits of Peasants, with Arms hid under their Cloaths, and Presents of

Country Fare for the Governors in their Hands, which was an usual Practice on New-Years-Day, and therefore the Numbers that went to the Castle, gave no Suspicion. The Garrisons of these Castles being small, and not aware of any such Designs, were soon overpower'd, and glad to escape with their Lives. At the same time the People of *Vry* seized upon the Castle newly built near *Altorff*, called *Vry's Yoke* while those of *Schwitz* surprized that of *Louvertz*. These were small Forts with slender Garrisons; yet they were such as kept the whole Country in Awe; therefore the People immediately fell to Demolishing them, as the Instruments of their Slavery. In the mean time the Governor *Landenberg* and his Adherents, finding it impossible to resist the Torrent of an enraged People united against them, and fearing the Effects of their Fury, endeavoured to make their Escapes, but were pursued and overtaken: However the People, without committing the least Insult upon the Governor and his Followers, conducted them to the Frontiers, and there dismiss'd them, after having exacted from them all an Oath never  
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to return into their Country. A rare Example of Moderation in an incensed Multitude, that have their Persecutors at their Mercy! With no other Ceremony than this, were these Three Cantons delivered from the *Austrian* Government, and put into a State of Liberty, which they have ever since preserved inviolate.

Thus was the Foundation of the *Helvetick* Liberty laid by three honest Plain Country-men, without any of the Advantages, which high Birth and great Riches bring with them, towards the Execution of such Popular Enterprises. They were inspired with the Love of their Country, animated by Revenge against their Tyrants, and tenacious of their Liberty. Where such Qualities are found, and meet with Opportunities of exerting themselves, they make Patriots and Heroes, without the help of Birth and Fortune; and the People to this Day, in honour to the Memory of their Deliverers, celebrate their yearly Festivals with great Gratitude; they sing Songs to their Praises, and the Names of *Arnold Melchtal*, *Wernher Stouffacher* and *Walter Furst* sound still as great  
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in their Ears, as the *Brutus's* of Rome, the *Doria's* of Genoa, and the *Nassau's* of Holland.

When the Emperor *Albert* was informed of this Resolution, he was highly incensed against the *Switzers*, and resolv'd to send an Army to subdue them; but all his Projects of Revenge vanish'd by his own untimely Death, being kill'd soon after, as he was passing the River *Rufs* at *Konigsfeld* in *Switzerland* by his Nephew, whose Dutchy of *Suabia* he unjustly detain'd from him. This Accident was very favourable to the Affairs of the Three Cantons, by giving them time to put themselves into a better Posture of Defence: For that Emperor's Sons were so taken up, on one side, in Soliciting the Imperial Crown for *Frederick* the eldest of them, and on the other, in revenging their Father's Death, that they were forc'd to leave the Cantons in peace, 'till those Disputes were over. However about Seven Years after, towards the end of the Year 1315, the Arch-Duke *Leopold* Son of *Albert* drew together an Army of twenty Thousand Men, in order to March into the Canton of *Schwitz*, with a Design

sign of destroying the Three Cantons by Fire and Sword. A new Pretence for his invading the Canton of *Schwitz*, was a Quarrel it had with a famous Abbey call'd the *Virgin Mary's Hermitage* Situated in that Canton, which being very rich, and having large Dominions, frequent Disputes arose between them about the Limits of their Territories, which at last came to Blows. Whereupon the Abbot employ'd the usual Spiritual Weapon, Excommunication; and the Arch-Duke *Leopold* took upon him the Care of executing the Sentence against those Enemies to the Church. With this Army therefore the Arch-Duke advanc'd towards them, while all the Force the Three Cantons could oppose to him, consisted only in Thirteen hundred Men; however they made up their want of Numbers by their Courage, and the Prudent Disposition of their small Army. Having got Notice, that the Enemy was necessarily to pass thro' a very narrow Valley, they posted some Men upon the Mountains near *Morgarten*, who, by rolling vast Numbers of Stones down upon the Cavalry, wounded abundance of Men and Horses, and by that Stratagem put the whole

whole Army into Confusion. In the midst of this Disorder, their little Body attack'd the Enemy with so much Bravery, that the *Austrians* were intirely routed, great Numbers of them slain, and the rest drove quite out of the Country; while two separate Bodies, that attack'd at the same time the Cantons of *Ury* and *Underwald*, were repulsed and treated in the same Manner. Thus with an handful of Men did these three Cantons defeat a powerful Army; and performed in the Battle such prodigious Acts of Bravery in Defence of their Liberty, that there is doubtless no less Honour due to their Memories, than that which was paid to the *Lacedaemonians*, who fought for the same Cause, tho' with less Success, at the Streights of *Thermopyle*.

This Victory of *Morgarten* laid the Foundation of the *Helvetick* Union or Alliance. For the League, which the Three Cantons had formerly made for ten Years only, was upon this Occasion converted to a perpetual one; into which all the Thirteen Cantons have since entred at different times, and upon different Occasions. And as they

they all then swore to the Observati-  
 on of it, they from thence had the  
 Name of *Eydgnoffen*, a *German* Word,  
 which signifies Parties to the same  
 Oath. Upon this Occasion it may not  
 be improper to observe, that as this  
 signal Victory was gained in the Can-  
 ton of *Schwitz*, which is the most con-  
 siderable of the Three, and was chief-  
 ly owing to the Valour of that Canton,  
 for these Reasons the other two Can-  
 tons have from that Time been join'd  
 to it, by the common Name of *Swit-  
 zers*; which Name has since been  
 communicated to all the other Can-  
 tons in general, and their Allies, as  
 they came into the Union.

Having thus briefly deduced the  
 general History of this People down  
 to the time of their shaking off the *Au-  
 strian* Yoke, and laying the Foundati-  
 on of their present Liberty, it is not  
 my Design to carry it on through the  
 several Wars they have maintain'd for  
 their Defence; my View was only to  
 relate as much of their Affairs, as I  
 thought necessary to clear the way to  
 this Epoch of their erecting themselves  
 into Cantons, that so I might give a  
 more perfect Idea of their present State,  
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by tracing out the several Steps, that led them into the Form they are now cast. Not but that their History affords as great Examples of military Virtue, as any to be found among the *Greeks* or *Romans*. The Battle of *Sempach* for Example, where the Arch-Duke *Leopold* was slain, that of *Bazil* against *Lewis* the Eleventh of *France* at that time Dauphin, the two Victories of *Granson* and *Morat* against *Charles* the Bold Duke of *Burgundy*, besides many others of less Note: These Actions, I say, would shine as bright in History, as any the most celebrated of Antiquity, if they were to be related by Historians of equal Talents. But I shall leave that Task to Persons of greater Abilities, and content my self with marking out the Periods, when the Thirteen Cantons enter'd into so strong a Federal Union, as to compleat the Form wherein *Switzerland* still exists, under the Notion of one Common-wealth, known by the Name of the *Helvetick* Body.

After the Revolt of the Three Cantons, the House of *Austria* never ceased, for the Space of near three hundred and fifty Years, to pursue their  
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Pretensions, and reviv'd their Attempts to reduce them by Force, as often as their other Wars would give them leave, or any fair Opportunity invited. However their Endeavours were so successless, that instead of recovering the Three Cantons to their Obedience, these on the contrary detach'd others from the House of *Austria*, and the Empire, and united them to their Body. Of that Number, the first was the Canton of *Lucerne*, which was the proper Dominion of the Arch-Dukes of *Austria*, yet entred into the Confederacy of the Three Cantons in the Year 1332, and has continued ever since united to them. The next was *Zurich*, which became a Canton in 1351: And tho' it came the Fifth into the Alliance, yet was plac'd at the Head upon account of its Extent and Power, and has ever since remained the first Canton in Order. This City was an Imperial one, and never made Part of the Dominion of the House of *Austria*. However upon that Occasion, the War broke out again between the *Austrians* and the Cantons, which latter invaded the County of *Glaris* belonging to that House, and after ha-

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ving subdued it, received it into their Alliance, and erected it into a Canton in the same Year 1351. The War continuing, the Country of *Zug*, which likewise belonged to the House of *Austria*, followed the Example of *Glaris*, and in the Year 1352 was added to the Number of the Cantons. About the latter End of the same Year, *Berne* an Imperial City likewise came into the Alliance, and made the Eighth Canton; and as these Cantons continued about an hundred and twenty five Years without increasing their Number, they are distinguish'd by the Name of the Eight Old Cantons. In 1481, *Fribourg* and *Soleurre* were receiv'd into the Number of the Cantons, the latter having always been an Imperial City, but the former was Part of the Demefnes of the House of *Austria*, which purchased it of the last Count of *Kybourg*.

In 1501 *Bazil* and *Schaffausen*, two Imperial Cities came into the Alliance, and in 1513 the Country of *Appenzel* was added to them, and compleated the Number of the Thirteen Cantons, after having purchased its Liberty for a Sum of Mony of the Abbot



bot and Convent of *St. Gal*, to whom it belonged.

Thus we see, that from the time of the Expulsion of the *Austrian* Governors by the Three Cantons, to that of the Country of *Appenzel's* entering into the Alliance, and thereby completing the present Number, above two Ages were spent; during which time, there were several Intervals of Peace between the House of *Austria* and the *Switzers*; and in the Year 1474 a perpetual Peace, under the Name of The Hereditary Union, was concluded between them; wherein the Arch-Duke *Sigismund*, surnamed the *Simple*, treated with them as with a free People, which Treaty was afterwards renewed and confirmed by the Emperor *Maximilian*; however the House of *Austria* still kept its Pretensions on Foot, and from time to time renew'd its Attempts to recover them, as Opportunities presented; wherein the Advantage that House has had of rendring the Imperial Crown almost Hereditary, did not a little favour its Designs, since, besides the additional Strength it brought along with it, the Emperors of that Race

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were furnished with the most plausible Reasons for pursuing their private Title, under Pretence of recovering to the Empire its ancient Fiefs and Dependencies, which they are obliged by their Capitulation with the Electors to endeavour. Notwithstanding all which, whether the Princes of that House thought it impracticable to reduce these Cantons to their Obedience, or that they have been so taken up with other more important Wars, that they had not time to pursue this, or else, that their Ambition was so glutted by the great Acquisitions they have made since they came to enjoy the Imperial Throne, that they despised this Country: Whichsoever of these may be the Reason, it is certain, that for above these hundred Years last past, they seem to have quite abandon'd all Thoughts of recovering it, and at last, by the Interposition of *France* and other States, consented to declare them a Free People and independent of the Empire, by the Treaty of *Munster*.

I have already observed, that these Cantons had more long and expensive Wars with the powerful Nobility and Clergy,

Clergy, that inhabited *Switzerland*, than with the House of *Austria* itself. For as these Nobles on one Hand depended on the Empire, or the House of *Austria*, and obey'd their Motions, so on the other, they had private Views of subduing them to increase their own Dominions; so that whenever the Cantons had to do with the House of *Austria*, they were sure of having the Nobility upon their Backs at the same time. And as the Nobility generally combined against the Cities, so the Cities had no other Means left of preserving themselves, but by entring into close Alliances for their mutual Defence: By which it appears, that the erecting so many little Republicks, was the necessary Effect of their common Danger, rather than of any premeditated Scheme of Government, in Imitation of the Commonwealths of *Greece*, that combined for their Defence against the Kings of *Persia*. And as their confederate Arms were at first generally successful, all the other Cities sought their Safety, by entring into their Alliance; whereby they increas'd to this Number, and acquired such a Reputation,

that several of their Neighbours, who could not be receiv'd as Cantons, were content to be admitted as Allies, and thought themselves safe under their Protection.

It would be a tedious Work to recount the several Wars they waged with the Nobility of the Country, some whereof were very powerful, such as the Counts of *Kybourg*, of *Torberg*, of *Arberg*, of *Gruyere*, *Nidaw*, *Thun*, *Lentzbourg*, and many others, which it is needless to name I shall content my self therefore with adding, that the Cantons, by keeping close united, got the better by Degrees of the greatest Part of the Nobility, whose Families either became extinct by natural Means, or perished in so many long and bloody Wars; so that in the end they either bought or conquer'd most of their Possessions, and by that Means increas'd to the Extent and Power they now are in.

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## C H A P. III.

*Of the Thirteen Cantons in particular.*

**H**AVING given an Account in the first Chapter of the Situation, Soil and Climate of this Country, and in the Second briefly deduced the History of the People down to their present State, it seems necessary to say something of each Canton in particular, before I come to treat of their Government, Forces and Revenues. But it is not my Design to give a Description of their Cities, and of other Curiosities, which are commonly observed by Travellers: Many of 'em have already spared me that Trouble; so that I shall only trace, as in a Map, such Outlines, as may serve to distinguish one from another, for the better understanding of what I shall hereafter say about them.

The Thirteen Cantons in the Order they now stand, and as they take their Places at the General Diets, are these.

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*Zurich,*

*Zurich, Berne, Lucerne, Ury, Schwitz, Underwald, Zug, Glaris, Bazil, Fribourg, Soleurre, Schaffhausen and Appenzel.*

The Protestant Cantons are, *Zurich, Berne, Bazil* and *Schaffhausen*, with above two Thirds of the Canton of *Glaris*, and above half of that of *Appenzel*. All the rest are Roman Catholics.

Of all these Cantons, *Berne* is by much the most considerable, both in Power and Extent, making about a third Part of *Switzerland*, and, generally speaking, is the most fruitful Part of it. It is divided into two Parts, called the *German Country*, and the *Roman* or the *French*, so distinguish'd by Reason of the different Languages they use. The latter goes commonly by the Name of the *Pâis de Vaud*, which is not only the most fertile, but the most beautiful Part of all *Switzerland*, and was taken from the Dukes of *Savoy* in the Year 1536. There are in it several Cities and Towns, such as *Lausanne, Vevay, Morges, Rolle, Nyon, Mouldon, Avanches, Payerne, Morat, Granson* and *Tverdun*, with others of less Note. And  
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in the *German* Country there are, besides *Berne* the Capital, *Burgdorff*, *Aarbourg*, *Lentzbourg*, *Aaraw*, *Bruck*, *Thun* and others. All these considerable Towns are in the Canton of *Berne*; whereas in most of the little Cantons, there is no Town at all, and in the others scarce above one of any Note, besides the Capital. The whole Canton is divided into seventy two Bailliages, which are govern'd by as many Bailiffs, who are Members of the Council of Two hundred at *Berne*, and are changed every six Years.

The Canton of *Zurich* is the next in Extent and Riches. It is not half so large as *Berne*, but lies round and compact, and, I believe, is richer than the other in Proportion to its Territory, because the People apply themselves more to Trade, and have establish'd in their Country several profitable Manufactures. The Country is divided into twenty four Bailliages, whereof Thirteen are so inconsiderable, that their Bailiffs usually reside in the City of *Zurich*, and dispatch the little Business those Employments give them, in their own Houses. There are two other Bailliages called *Stein* and *Win-*

*terthur*, which have so great Privileges, that the Canton of *Zurich* has little more than the bare Sovereignty, the People of these two Towns being govern'd by their own Laws and Magistrates: So that the Government sends only an under-Officer there, to receive the Revenues paid to the Sovereign. There remain therefore but nine Bailliages of any Moment, which oblige the Bailiffs to constant Residence; but those nine are considerable both for Extent of Jurisdiction, and the Profits annexed to their Office.

The Cantons of *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen* have so narrow a District of Territory, that they can make but a small Figure in the World by their Arms, and therefore have applied themselves wholly to Trade, by which they grow rich. *Bazil* is without Dispute the finest City in *Switzerland*, and in my Opinion *Schaffhausen* the next. *Bazil* had formerly a Bishop, who by Degrees had annex'd the Temporal Dominion to the Spiritual; but upon the Reformation of Religion in that City, he was drove out of it, and has ever since lost his Power in the Canton: However he still retains the  
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Sovereignty of a considerable Part of that Bishoprick, and is a Prince of the Empire; he and the Chapter usually reside at a Place called *Porentru*, from whence the Protestants call him the Bishop of *Porentru*, tho' the Catholics continue to stile him Bishop of *Bazil*. The Country he remains still possess'd of, lies to the South of *Alsatia*, between *Franche Comté* and the Canton of *Soleurre*, the Inhabitants whereof enjoy so great Privileges, that he has little more than the bare Name of Sovereign, and the Liberty of collecting the Revenues, annexed to it. For by Virtue of their Liberties, they are not only govern'd by their own Laws and Magistrates, but have a Right of contracting Alliances with other States for their Defence and Protection: In pursuance whereof, those of his Subjects that are of the Reformed Religion, particularly the Inhabitants of *Munsterthal*, are in Alliance with the Canton of *Berne*, and under its immediate Protection; of which I saw an Instance in the beginning of the Year 1706, when the Bishop endeavoured to introduce some Innovations, in order to enlarge  
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his Authority beyond the Laws, whereof the People of *Munsterthal* complain'd to the Canton of *Berne*, and demanded Succour of them; upon which they immediately march'd four thousand Men to their Relief, re-instated them in their former Rights, in spite of the Bishop, and then return'd home. How singular soever this Practice may appear in other Countries, of allowing the Subjects of one Prince or State to live in Alliance with, or under the Protection of another; yet is very common in *Switzerland*, and is no more than is necessary in the present Case. For if the Subjects of *Porentru* had been left to the Mercy of their Bishops, there had been an End long ago of their Religion and Liberties.

The Cantons of *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen* have but four or five Bailliages each, and those very inconsiderable; so that their chief Strength consists in the Riches of their Cities.

Of the Catholick Cantons, *Lucerne*, *Fribourg* and *Soleurre* are the most powerful: the first in the Extent of its Territory, and the two others in the Goodness of their Soil, tho' that of  
*Soleurre*

*Soleurre* is much the better. The Capitals of these three Cantons are no unhandsome Cities, whereof *Soleurre* is the usual Place of Residence of the *French* Ambassadors, as *Lucerne* is of those of *Spain*, and of the Pope's Nuntio. *Lucerne* is not so big as the Canton of *Zurich*, and is far from being so fruitful, for it produces no Wine, and not Corn enough for its Inhabitants, so that they are forced to buy both of their Neighbours. *Soleurre* and *Fribourg* yield Corn enough, but no Wine, tho' they supply themselves with it at an easie Price from the *Pais de Vaud* and *Neufchatel*. *Lucerne* has sixteen Bailliages, *Fribourg* Fifteen, and *Soleurre* Ten; which are, generally speaking, more profitable than those of the two former; however none of them come near the good Ones of the Canton of *Berne*.

The other six Cantons, *Ury*, *Schwitz*, *Underwald*, *Zug*, *Glaris* and *Appenzel*, are commonly called the Little Cantons, and have nothing in them worthy Observation, there being not so much as a walled Town in any of them,

them, tho' *Altorff*, *Zug* and *Schwitz* are pretty Villages.

The whole Canton of *Ury* consists but of one Valley, reaching from *Altorff* to the Foot of Mount *St. Godard*, through which Valley runs the River *Rufs*, and often overflows a good Part of it. It produces no Wine, and very little Corn in Proportion to the Wants of the Inhabitants; however their Mountains furnish them with Pasture for great Numbers of Cattle, by the Sale of which in *Italy*, they are enabled to buy both in sufficient Quantities. It has but one Bailliage belonging to it, and that a poor one; tho', as it is the great Thoroughfare of Merchandize between *Switzerland* and *Italy*, they raise some Mony by the Duties imposed on the Goods that pass thro' their Country.

The Canton of *Schwitz* is very mountainous, so that the best part of it consists only of two or three narrow Vallies, much of the same Nature as that of *Ury*. It has but three Bailliaiges, and those of very indifferent Revenue.

*Underwald* is much such another Canton as *Schwitz*, both as to Extent and  
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and Soil. There are in it but eight good Villages, and no Bailliage; so this Canton, which is very mountainous, contributes but little to the Strength or Beauty of *Switzerland*.

The Canton of *Zug* is a very small one, but much more fruitful than the Three former. It produces both Corn and Wine enough for its Inhabitants, and has Six Bailliages, tho' of little Income. The Village or Town of *Zug* is reckon'd the neatest of any in the little Cantons.

That of *Glaris* consists of one large Valley, whereof the chief Village gives Name to the Canton. This Valley affords Corn, and the Mountains Pasture for Cattle: Other Necessaries the Inhabitants are forced to buy of their Neighbours. It has one pretty good Bailliage, and by a particular Treaty of Comburgership, is Co-Arbitrator in Conjunction with the Canton of *Schwitz* upon any Differences, that may arise between the Abbot of *St. Gal*, and his Subjects of *Tockenbourg*.

*Appenzel* is the last Canton as well in Rank as in Goodness, consisting of one large barren Valley; so that the  
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Inhabitants live chiefly upon Milk and Cheefe. They are reckon'd the roughest People of *Switzerland*, and enjoy so few Comforts of Life at home, that the better sort of them use their utmost Endeavours, to establish themselves in some foreign Service. I have already observed, that their Country formerly belonged to the Abbots of *St. Gal*, of whom they bought their Liberty; so I shall only add, that it is said to have taken its Name from a Cell built at *Appenzel* by one of the Abbots, to which he and his Successors used often to retire at Times of Devotion, and still bears the Name in *Latin* of *Abbatis Cella*.

Having thus run over the Thirteen Cantons with all possible Brevity, it may not be amiss, before I conclude this Chapter, to touch upon the Countries or Bailliages which belong to them all, or to several of them in Common, because they were conquered by their united Arms, in their Wars against the House of *Austria* and others.

The Common Bailliages are these Nine; the County of *Baden*, the *Frey-Ambter*, or Free Villages, as they are called, The Counties of *Turgovy*, *Sargantz*

*gantz* and *Rhental*, and the Four Italian Bailliages, *Lugano*, *Locarno*, *Mendrisio* and *Valmadia*; besides which, there are three Cities without Territory, call'd *Bremgarten*, *Mellingben* and *Rapperschwyl*.

The County of *Baden* was conquered from the House of *Austria* by the Eight Old Cantons in 1415. It is as large as some of the little Cantons, and of a better Soil. The Capital City, from whence it takes its Name, is remarkable for nothing but the hot Baths there, and for being the Place of Residence of the Emperor's Ambassadors: Tho' now it will grow more famous on Account of the Congress held there, for the Treating of the Peace between the Empire and *France*. The Inhabitants are all Roman Catholicks.

*Turgovy* is a Province of no small Extent, whereof *Frawenfeld* is the Capital. It was taken from the House of *Austria* at the same time as *Baden*, by the United Arms of the Seven Old Cantons. The Inhabitants are most of them Protestants.

*Sargantz* is a County Situated upon the Frontiers of the *Grisons*, of no great Extent or Revenue. It was bought

bought by the Seven Old Cantons of the last Count of its Name in 1483, and has continued under their Sovereignty ever since. The Inhabitants are all Roman Catholicks except one Community.

The *Frey-Ambter*, or Free Bailliages comprehend but a small District, which went formerly under the Name of the County of *Rore*, and was taken from the House of *Austria*, at the same time as the County of *Baden*, by the Seven Old Cantons. The Inhabitants are all Roman Catholicks.

*Rhintal*, a narrow County, extending it self along the *Rhine*, before it enters into the Lake of *Constance*, was likewise taken from the House of *Austria* by the Seven Old Cantons, about the same time as the former; but as the Canton of *Appenzel* had some Pretensions to it, it was therefore, when it became a Canton, admitted into a share of the Sovereignty. Above two thirds of the Inhabitants are Protestants.

Of the three Cities, *Mellinghen* and *Bremgarten* are Situated within the Circumference of the County of *Baden* and the Three Bailliages, but have  
no



no Dependence on them, being govern'd by their own Laws and Magistrates, tho' under the same Sovereign, and taken at the same time.

*Rapperschwyl* is a City on the Lake of *Zurich*, at the end of the long Bridge that crosses it, and was taken from the House of *Austria* by the Cantons of *Ury*, *Schwitz*, *Underswald* and *Glaris* in the Year 1458.

The Four *Italian* Bailliages, *Lugano*, *Locarno*, *Mendrisio* and *Valmadia* are situated on the *Italian* side of the *Alps*, and made formerly Part of the Dutchy of *Milan*; but were dismember'd from it by the Duke *Maximilian Sforza*, and by him given to the *Switzers* in the Year 1513, as a Reward of the Services they had done him in his Wars; so that they now belong to Twelve Cantons, that of *Appenzel* having no share in them, because it was not received into the Alliance as a Canton 'till some Months after.

These four Bailliages reach several Leagues in extent, and partake of the warm Climate of *Italy*, tho' the Country be Mountainous. The two first are considerable Cities, and all enjoy so great Privileges, that they are of lit-

the Benefit to their Sovereigns, or to the Governors they send thither. They are all Roman Catholicks, and so rigid, that when a Protestant Canton sends a Governor there in its turn of that Religion, he is not allowed to have the Exercise of it even in his own House.

There are three other Bailliages in *Italy* situated near these, call'd *Belinzona*, *Valbruna* and *Riviera*, which are subject in common to the three Cantons of *Ury*, *Schwitz*, and *Underwald*, by whom they were taken in War from the Dukes of *Milan*, and the Sovereignty of them yielded by Treaty in 1516; ever since which time they have remain'd in quiet Possession of them.

That I may omit nothing worth mentioning, I will just name the little Barony of *Alt-Sax* belonging to the Canton of *Zurich*, and the County of *Werdenberg* to that of *Glaris*, both situated upon the Borders of the *Rhine*, before it falls into the Lake of *Constance*. Besides which there is a Bailliage called *Gasteren* belonging to *Schwitz* and *Glaris*, lying between the  
Lakes

Lakes of *Zurich* and *Wallenstat*, on the Borders of the River *Limat*.

There are also Four Considerable Bailliages in the *Pais de Vaud*, belonging jointly to *Berne* and *Fribourg*, because they were taken by the United Arms of those Two Cantons, at the time that all that Country was conquered from the House of *Savoy*. They are *Morat*, *Granson*, *Echalens* and *Schwartzenbourg*, to which Governments each Canton sends its Bailiffs alternately every five Years: Wherein it is observable, that when the Bailiff is of one Canton, he is solely under the Direction and Sovereignty of the other, during the time of his Government in any of those Four Bailliages.

It is to be observed, that the War, which broke out in 1712, between the Cantons of *Zurich* and *Berne* on one Part, and *Lucerne*, *Ury*, *Schwitz*, *Underwald* and *Zug* on the other, has made considerable Changes in the Property of the common Bailliages. For by the Treaty of Peace, which ended that War, the whole County of *Baden*, half of the Free Bailliages, including particularly the Cities of *Bremgarten* and *Rapperschwyl*, were yielded to

the two Protestant Cantons, reserving to that of *Glaris* its share in the Sovereignty of them, because it had no part in the Quarrel. Besides which, the Canton of *Berne* was admitted to a share in the Sovereignty of *Turgovy*, *Sargantz*, *Rhintal*, and the other half of the Free Bailliages, of which it had no part before that War, because none of their Troops assisted at the Conquest of them.

All these common Bailliages are governed by so many Bailiffs, who are chosen by the respective Cantons that are Co-Sovereigns, each Canton in his turn, and are changed some every Five, and others every Six Years; wherein it is to be observed, that the Bailiffs are not accountable for their Administration to the Canton which chose them, but to all the Cantons in general as Co-Sovereigns.

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## CHAP. IV.

### *Of their Government.*

**T**HE Thirteen Cantons are so many Common-wealths, tho' there be a Difference in their Forms of Government. Seven of them are of the Aristocratical Kind, and Six of the Democratical. The Seven Aristocratical are *Zurich, Berne, Lucerne, Bazil, Fribourg, Soleurre and Schaffhausen*. The other Six are Democratical. This Difference in their Government, seems to be the Effect of the State each happen'd to be in, before they were erected into Cantons. For as the Seven First consisted each of One City only, or with little Territory belonging to them, the whole Government was naturally lodged among the Citizens, and being once confined to their Body, it of Course continued so, notwithstanding the great Acquisitions of Territory they

have since made; whereas the Six Democratical Cantons having no Cities, nor any Villages, that could claim any Preheminence above the others, the Country was divided into Communities; and each Community having an equal Right and Pretence to the Sovereign Power, they could not well avoid sharing it, and consequently falling into a Popular Frame. But whatever may have been the Occasion of this Difference in their Forms, I shall wave that Enquiry, and proceed to give an Account of the Government of the Seven with Cities, and afterwards of the Six others.

There is yet a Subdivision to be made of these Seven with Cities. For tho' they be all equally Aristocratical, in relation to the Subjects, that are not Citizens, or Freemen of the Capital of each Canton, because none but such Citizens are capable of having any share in the Government; yet in relation to the Citizens themselves, there is a difference among them. For in the Cantons of *Zurich*, *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen*, the meaner sort of Citizens, and Companies of Tradesmen, who are divided into Tribes, have their  
part

part of the Government, and are elected by their Tribes into the Sovereign Council; but in those of *Berne, Lucerne, Fribourg* and *Soleurre*, the Little Council consisting of Twenty Seven, with a less Number of the most considerable Members of the Great One joyn'd to them, have the sole Right of filling up Vacancies in the Sovereign Council, when they happen; and as those Persons always chuse their Relations and Friends, to supply these Vacancies, the Common Trades-men and Citizens are by that Method, almost excluded from having any Share in the Sovereign Power, as will be better understood, when I come to take the Governments to Pieces. However, as the Difference in the Frames, between those Cities that are divided into Tribes, and the others, is not very essential, I shall be very particular in my Account of the Government of *Berne*, and content my self with taking Notice, as I proceed, of any Material Point, wherein the others differ from it.

The Sovereign Power of the Canton of *Berne* is lodged in the Great Council, which, when it is compleat,

consists of Two hundred and Ninety Nine ; but because near the Number of Ninety Nine are generally absent upon their Bailliages, and that by other Accidents, there are seldom more than Two hundred assembled at a time, it goes by the Name of the Council of Two Hundred. This Council makes Peace, War and Alliances, disposes of the Publick Treasure, and of all Civil Employments of Consequence, and in short does all other Acts of absolute Sovereignty.

Out of this Council is drawn another, that is call'd The Senate, or Little Council, consisting of Twenty Seven Persons, including the two Chiefs call'd *Avoyers*, who preside in both Councils yearly by turns. The Members of this Council are properly called Senators or Counsellors, whereof the two Youngest have the additional Title of Secret Councillors: They are Guardians of the Peoples Liberty, and resemble in their Office the *Tribunes of the People* in the Commonwealth of *Rome*: By virtue of which, they have a Power of convoking the Great Council, whenever they find any Matter proposed, or Design carried on, which they think may be prejudicial to the Rights  
and



and Liberties of the People or Citizens, or whenever they may think it necessary for other Reasons.

This Little Senate meets every Day except Sundays, and is entrusted with the Dispatch of the ordinary Affairs of the Government; whereas the Great Council assembles but twice a Week, unless upon some extraordinary Occasions. This Senate has indeed some peculiar Prerogatives annexed to it, independent of the Great Council; and among the rest, the Disposal of all Ecclesiastical Preferments, besides some Civil Employments. However, to distinguish rightly between the Functions of the Two Councils, one may say, in a limited Sense, that the Great one has the Legislative Power, and the Little one the Executive, except when new unpresided Cases fall out.

I have already taken Notice, that the Senators are drawn out of the Great Council, and take their Places in it whenever it meets; of which they are also Members; so that the Senate is lost in the Great Council, and has no Existence while that is assembled.

As to the Right of Electing the Members of the Great and Little Council,

cil, it is lodged wholly among themselves, and they chuse one another: That is to say, the Great Council chuses out of its own Body a new Counsellor or Senator, when a Vacancy happens, with this Restriction, that neither Father and Son, nor two Brothers can be of the Little Council at the same time; and on the contrary, the Senate, with the Addition of Sixteen Members of the Great Council, fills up all the Vacancies of that Council. The Vacancies that happen in the Senate, are filled up as soon as the deceas'd Senator is buried, because it is necessary that Council should be always compleat; but in the Great one they stay, 'till there are fourscore or an hundred empty Places, before they make a new Promotion, which ordinarily does not happen in less than nine or ten Years. The Reason commonly given for this Delay is, that they may have an Opportunity of contenting at the same time, a great Number of Pretenders; but the true one is, that the remaining Members of the Great Council may have the fewer Competitors in their Pretensions to their Bailliages and Employments, since none but  
Mem-

Members of that Council are qualified for any Place of Trust.

The Sixteen Members of the Great Council, that are join'd to the Senate upon a new Promotion, are called *Seizeniers* from their Number, and are chosen out of the old Bailiffs, that is, such as have pass'd their Term of Years in some Bailliage or Government: But that I may give a clearer Idea of the Rise and Function of the *Seizeniers*, it will be necessary to make a short Digression.

In the City of *Berne*, there are Twelve Societies, or Companies of Tradesmen, which they call *Abbeys*, four Great ones, and eight Less. In one of these Companies, every Citizen, be he Gentleman or Tradesman, must enrol himself, since no Body, that is not a Member of one of them, is qualify'd to be of the Council of Two Hundred, or capable of any other Employment of Trust. Every one of these *Abbeys* has its Head or Chief, which they call *Seizenier*; the Great *Abbeys* have each of them Two, and the Less one, which makes the Number Sixteen. These *Seizeniers* must be Members of the *Abbey* for which they

they serve, and, as I have already observed, are chosen out of the Number of old Bailiffs, that are in the Council of Two Hundred, and that have no Employment. So that when new *Seizeniers* are to be chosen, all the old Bailiffs meet at their several Abbeys, where the *Seizeniers* are Elected, not by Plurality of Voices, but by Lot; for as many Balls are put into a Bag, as there are Pretenders to those Posts; one of them Gold, and the rest Silver; and he that gets the golden Ball, is the *Seizenier*. The same Practice is used at all the Abbeys in the Elections of *Seizeniers*, who are usually chosen just before the Vacancies in the Great Council are filled up, and continue in their Posts 'till another Promotion is made, which, as I have already observed, happens but once in nine or ten Years.

Besides the Right, that these *Seizeniers* have of filling up the Vacancies in the Great Council, in Conjunction with the Members of the Senate, they are invested with some great and peculiar Prerogatives. For they are properly the Representatives of the Citizens in the Great Council; whereof each is obliged to take care, that nothing

thing pass there to the Prejudice of his Company or Abbey; and they are not only the Representatives of the City, but in some sort the Guardians of the whole State: For they have the sole Right of making Representations to the Council, of any Grievances the Citizens labour under, and of proposing such new Laws, as they think may be beneficial, or of abolishing such old Ones, as they conceive to be prejudicial to the Publick in general, or to their Abbeyes in particular. Nay they are for a little while the sole Sovereigns in being, in Conjunction with the *Four Banderets*; for during three Days before *Easter* every Year, all other Employments in the State cease, and they are then empowered to enquire into the Behaviour of every Member of the State, and deprive him of his Employment, or Place in the Great Council or Senate, if they see Cause; but this is a Power they use very sparingly; so that each is of Course confirm'd in his Post on *Easter* Monday, unless any of them should be found guilty of some very notorious Crime. It is true indeed, that the *Four Banderets* and *Seizeners*

ers cannot expell a Member of the Great Council, unless their Sentence be confirmed by that Council; but for a Senator, they expel him, when they see Cause, without Appeal or Remedy.

Having thus explain'd the Functions of the *Seizeniers*, I shall continue to relate the manner of filling up the Vacancies in the Great Council.

I have already said, that the Electors are the Members of the Senate, and the Sixteen *Seizeniers*, to whom all the Candidates make their Court and Application. Every one of these Electors has the Liberty of naming one Member, and the two Avoyers two a-piece. The Chancellor and the Grefier are likewise allowed to name one each; besides which, the Commissary General, with some others, pretend to a Right of being Elected by vertue of their Offices, and generally are so; by which Means, there are always about fifty sure of being Elected; the rest of the Pretenders take their Chance, and are chosen by the Plurality of Voices. There are but two Conditions required to qualifie a Pretender; one is, that he be a Citizen of *Berne*, of some Abbey; and the other, that he be

be at least entred into his Thirtieth Year; wherein they are so strict, that a Gentleman of a good Family was excluded from the last Promotion, because he wanted Three Days of the Age required; as on the other Hand, several have not only fail'd in their Pretensions to the Great Council, but even lost, for them and their Heirs for ever, the Right of Burgership, for having omitted thro' Negligence, to enter themselves of some Abbey.

The usual Custom is, for every Elector to give his Nomination to his eldest Son, if he be qualify'd; if not, he is sure of marrying a Daughter, by giving it to the Person that marries her, which often serves instead of a Portion. Upon this Occasion it is pleasant enough to see, what Numbers of passionate Lovers start up in three or four Days time; for there is no greater Distance between the Choice of the *Seizeniers*, and the Election of the new Members. The first Visits that a new *Seizenier* receives, as soon as he returns home from his Election, are sure to be from Lovers; that demand his Daughter in Marriage, if there be no Son in the way; in which Case, the  
Marriage,

Marriage, or at least the Promise of it, is as sudden as the Passion of the Lover: For the *Seizenier* chuses such of the Lovers, as he and his Daughter like best, and immediately engages him in a Promise of Marriage, lest he should not keep his Word after his Nomination; so that it sometimes happens, that the first Words, which a Lover and his Mistress ever exchange, are a Marriage Contract. However, as there is no Fortune to be made in the Republick without being of the Great Council, and considering that a Man makes but a poor Figure there, who is not a Member of it, the Gentlemen, that are the richest and of the best Families, are glad to get into it by that way, when they cannot succeed by any other, and are often content to take that Nomination in lieu of a Portion.

This is the usual Method of filling up Vacancies in the Great Council; whereby it appears, that the Electors not only favour their own Relations in their Nominations, but also agree among themselves to serve one anothers Friends, in the Choice of the others, that come in by Plurality of Voices.

By



By which Means the whole Government must necessarily be lodged in a few Families, and the Bulk of the ordinary Citizens be excluded from a Share in it, unless any of them can get in, as it sometimes happens, either by the Plurality of Voices, or by marrying an Elector's Daughter. I say nothing of the Inhabitants of the rest of the Canton; for I have already taken Notice, that they are all formally excluded from being of the Great Council, and consequently from holding any Employment of Trust, as not being Citizens of *Berne*.

The same Practice is observed in the Elections of the Great and Little Council of *Lucerne*, *Fribourg* and *Soleurre*; at least there is no essential Difference, that deserves a particular Remark, except that the Great Council of *Lucerne* consists but of an hundred Persons, and the Little one or Senate of thirty five; but in those of *Zurich*, *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen* the Method is so different, that it seems necessary to explain it.

Those three Cities are divided each of them into Twelve or more Tribes, to one of which every Citizen belongs, as

to the Abbeyes in *Berne*. And each of these Tribes has its Quota of the Members of the Great and Little Council, as at *Zurich*; for Example, if I mistake not, each Tribe has Twelve Members in the Great Council, and Four in the Little one, which Number is always kept Compleat, and the Vacancies are immediately filled up; but in supplying those Vacancies, the Aristocratical Genius has again prevailed, tho' but lately, and by Abuse, not by Institution. For upon the Death of a Member of any Tribe in the Great or Little Council, the Right of chusing his Successor, instead of returning to the whole Tribe, remains in the surviving Fifteen Members of it, that are in the two Councils, who are at Liberty to chuse whom they please, provided he be one of their own Tribe; by which Means they have deprived their Principals of the Right of chusing their Representatives in both Councils.

There is another Difference likewise in their Senate. For as that of *Berne* consists but of Twenty five, besides the two Chiefs; those of these three Cities consist of Fifty, besides their two Chiefs, which are called Burgher-Masters,

Masters, tho' but half of them are in Office at a time; so that each half governs by turns, and is changed every six Months, except in matters of Judicature: In which cases the whole number of Fifty is assembled, and every one has an equal Vote. Nay at other times, for the dispatch of ordinary Business, the Fifty are usually assembled; but those that are out of Office, assist only for Information of what passes, and have no Voices.

These two are the chief Points, wherein the Government of these Three Cities differs from that of *Berne*: So that I shall content myself with having taken Notice of them, and proceed in my Account of the Government of *Berne*.

I have already shewn, that the Sovereignty of this Canton resides in the Great Council of Two hundred, and that the Little Council or Senate is charged with the Dispatch of the ordinary Affairs of it; so I shall pass on to the chief Officers and Magistrates of this Common-wealth.

The two Chiefs that are at the Head of the Government, are called *Avoyers* in *French*, and *Schultheissen* in

*German.* Their Employments are for Life, but they exercise them annually by turns; whereof he, that is in Office, is called the **Reigning Avoyer**, who presides both in the **Great and Little Council**, proposes the Matters that are to be Debated there, keeps the Seals that are put to all Publick Acts and Instruments, and in short is the Principal Magistrate, to whom all Persons apply themselves, that have any Business to pass in either Council. The other Avoyer, that is out of Office, is only the first Senator in rank, 'till the Year he expired; then he takes the Seals of the other, and is reigning Avoyer in his turn. These Posts are mightily coveted, by reason of the Rank they give those that possess them, as well as for the Influence they have in the Management of all Publick Affairs, which gives them frequent Opportunities of doing good or harm to great numbers of Persons, tho' they are otherwise so little profitable, at least to Men of Integrity, that whoever should farm one of them at a Thousand Crowns a Year, would lose by the Bargain.

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The Employments next in rank, are those of the Four *Banderets*, so called from being the Standard-Bearers of the City, which is divided into Four Quarters or Wards, whereof each has its Standard-Bearer. These Posts are always given to Senators of the first Rank, because they are very honourable and for Life, but scarce worth an hundred Pounds a Year. The *Banderets* were formerly of much greater Authority, and had in Effect assumed to themselves the whole Government of the Commonwealth: For they, together with the Sixteen *Seizeniers*, created all the Members of the Great Council; and as they had the Nomination even of the *Seizeniers*, one may say the *Banderets* alone filled up the Great Council, and had consequently all the Members Votes at their Command. But the Citizens finding this excessive Power of the *Banderets* tended to *Oligarchy*, began to clip their Wings, by taking from them first the Nomination of the *Seizeniers*; and have since by Degrees so retrench'd their other Prerogatives, that they are now deprived of all Power, that may be dangerous to the Publick Liberty.

Next in order come the Two Treasurers, One called Treasurer of the *German* Country, and t' other of the *Roman*, or *Pais de Vaud*. Their Business is to receive the Revenues of the Sovereign, each in his District. These Employments last but Six Years; but they are reckoned the best of the State, since those that have the Management of the Publick Mony, always find Ways of enriching themselves in spite of the best Regulations.

These Eight are the chief Employments of the Commonwealth, and are always given to Senators, as Rewards of their long and faithful Services; to which I may add one more of Consideration, which must likewise be held by a Senator, and that is the Superintendent of the Publick Buildings. All the other Officers of the Commonwealth, such as the Chancellor, the *Greffer*, the Commissary, with many others not necessary to be specify'd, are usually enjoy'd by Members of the Great Council, and some inferior Ones by Citizens that are not of it; but it very rarely happens, that any Citizen, who is not of the Great Council, can get any Employment of great Profit.

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Having said what seems necessary of the Government, and chief Magistrates in the Capital, I pass on to those in the rest of the Country. The whole Canton of *Berne* is divided into Seventy two Bailliages, which are govern'd by so many Bailiffs, who are Members of the Great Council, and are chang-ed every six Years. These Bailiffs have the chief Direction, each in his District, both of Civil and Military Affairs; each is the General of the Militia of his Province, and the Supreme Judge both in Civil and Criminal Causes. They are indeed assisted by others of the Bailliage in their Courts of Justice, but the Bailiff has the sole Power of pronouncing Sentence, as he thinks fit; tho' in criminal Causes where Life is concern'd, his Sentence must be confirmed by the Great Council, before it can be Executed; and in civil Ones, there lies an Appeal in Causes beyond a certain Value; for which purpose there are always residing at *Berne*, Two Courts of Appeals, One for the *German* Country, and the other for the *Pais de Vaud*. Nay in the *German* Country, by a particular Privilege, there lies an Appeal from the

Court of Appeals it self to the Great Council; but those of the *Pais de Vaud* have not the same Liberty allow'd them, because, as they are naturally very litigious, they would take up too much of the Council's time in hearing their Causes.

These Bailliages are all of them Profitable, and some of them so considerable, that the Bailiffs may live splendidly during the Six Years of their Government, and yet put in their Pockets Five and twenty, or Thirty Thousand Crowns, which is a great Sum in a Country, where the Law retrenches all Superfluities in Equipage, Apparel and Furniture, and where OEconomy is so well understood and practised. As these Bailliages are the chief Employments, by which Men can make their Fortunes in this Country, so all their Views and Designs are turned that way. Formerly every Man, from his first entering into the Great Council, began to take the Measures he thought most proper, to procure him the Bailliage he aimed at, and made his Court to those Members of it, who had the greatest Credit and Authority, even to the Sacrificing his own Opinion to theirs



theirs in the Debates on Publick Matters, that had no Relation to their particular Interest. The Reason that obliged the Competitors for Bailliages, to pay so much Regard and Complaisance to the Leading-Men, was the manner of distributing the Bailliages by open Votes; by which Practice every Body knew for whom each Member Voted, and those who did not Vote for such, as were favoured and promoted by the Men most in Credit, were sure to suffer for it, and to find those Men against them, when they came to pretend to any Bailliage for themselves in their turn. This Method being found to have great Influence on the Publick Affairs, and to produce very ill Effects, by the Dependence it imposed on People, as well as by the Enmities it raised between Friends and Families, gave Occasion to the Introduction of the *Balot*, which was thought a proper Expedient, to prevent the Inconveniencies complain'd of; since by that means, no Body would know who another Voted for, and consequently all Resentment, upon the Account of false Friends, would be at an end. This Remedy seem'd good in the Theory, but

but failed in the Practice: For upon the Vacancy of any Bailliage or Employment, the same Brigues were carried on with as much Violence as before, and by a little Practice People learnt to discover, who voted for or against them, as exactly, as if they had still continued to Vote openly; false Friends protested in vain, that they had given their Votes as they had promised; they were easily found out, and the same Dependence on the Great Men, the same Enmities between Families still subsisted. In order therefore to go to the root of the Evil, it was proposed, that all Employments should be disposed of by Lot, and Fortune alone should decide between People's different Pretensions. This Proposal met with great Opposition from the leading Men, who by their Credit hindered its taking effect for several Years. However in the beginning of the Year 1710, it was establish'd at *Berne* for Seven Years, by way of Experiment, as it had been before at *Fribourg*. So that now, when any Bailliage, or other Employment within the Regulation is to be disposed of, as many Balls, as there are Competitors for it, are put into a  
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Bag, whereof One is gilt, which he that draws, has the Bailliage. I say any Bailliage or other Employment within the Regulation, because the Posts of Avoyer, Banderet, Treasurer, and of all the Senators are still disposed of by the Balot, since it would seem ridiculous to leave to Fortune the Choice of the chief Magistrates, that are to have the Direction of all the Affairs of the Commonwealth. This Establishment has effectually knock'd on the Head all Brigues, and destroy'd all Enmities; if any Man be prefer'd to one more deserving, 'tis Fortune's doing, and no Body can be blamed; tho' it must be said for her Honour, that since she has had the Disposal of the Bailliages, it does not appear, that she has made a more unequal Distribution of them, than the Great Council did before this Establishment was introduced. However, as it disarms the Men of Credit of a great Part of their Power, it is not to be doubted, but they will lay hold of all Opportunities of getting it abolished; tho' as the Plurality will always find their Advantage in main-  
taining

taining it, I question whether the great Ones will ever succeed in that Design.

In the Distribution of Employments, there are Two other Regulations, which deserve to be taken Notice of. The first is, that no Bachelor, tho' a Member of the Two hundred, can pretend to any Baillage or Employment of Profit; which Restriction was designed as an Encouragement to Marriage, or else to serve as a Reason for favouring those, that have Wives and Children, preferably to Batchelors, because it is to be supposed their Wants are greater.

The Second is, that when any Person pretends to an Employment, all his own and his Wife's Relations are obliged to withdraw, as far as the second Cousins inclusive, because it is to be supposed, they will always favour their own Relations, tho' against Justice or Superior Merit. However this Regulation is liable to great Abuses, which are frequently put in Practice. For when Two Persons contend for any Employment, it often happens, that a Third starts up, and puts in his Claim, not with a Prospect of carrying

ing it, but purely to favour one of the two Competitors, by obliging his own Relations to withdraw, when he thinks they will not be favourable to that Person, whose Interest he himself promotes. This Abuse has lost its Effect in Relation to Bailliages, and other Employments that are disposed by Lot, since the Introduction of that Establishment; but it still continues to be practised in the Disposal of the Employments of Senators, and others without that Regulation. No Remedy has been yet found for that Abuse, tho' there seems to be a very plain and easie one, which is, only to put the Question for each Pretender separately, and one after another; in which Case, none but the Relations of each Competitor withdraw, while the Question is put upon him.

The Places in the Great Council and Senate are all for Life, and so are those of the Two Avoyers, and of the Four Banderets, unless in case of Crimes, or Bankrupcy, upon which Accounts they may be degraded. All the other Employments of the Commonwealth are held only for six Years, except the Secretaries of the Council,  
and

and some other Posts, wherein Experience is required; those the Possessors may keep as long as they please, but they always leave them, when they can get a good Bailliage; except the Chancellor alone, whose Employment being very profitable, he is desirous of keeping it as long as he can; but the late Regulation by Lot has limited his Term to Twelve Years; at the Expiration of which, he must resign that Post, tho' in lieu of it he has also the Choice of a Bailliage.

It happen'd formerly, that Persons of great Credit, as soon as their Term was ended in one good Bailliage, would by the same Interest get immediately into another, or at least in some short Interval of time; by which Means it came to pass, that a few of the leading Men engross'd all the good Bailliages, either for themselves or their Relations. Therefore in the new Regulation by Lot, Provision is made against such partial Distributions: For now the Bailliages are divided into Five Classes according to their reputed Value, and an old Bailiff is disabled from pretending to any Bailliage, but of the two last Classes; besides  
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which, there must be an Interval of seven Years, between the time of his quitting one Bailliage, and pretending to another; and even then he must drop his Pretensions to the Bailliage in question, if any Member of the Great Council, who has never had any, be willing to accept of it.

Tho' the Places in the Great and Little Council be for Life; yet those in the former are of no immediate Profit, any further, than as they lead to all the Employments of the State. Each Member has indeed some little Allowance of Corn and Wood for the use of his Family, but it amounts to a Trifle not worth mentioning; and for the Salaries of the Senators, they do not amount to above Three hundred Crowns a Year, including some Perquisites annexed to them. So that I believe there is no Country in the World, where the Magistrates serve the Publick for smaller Rewards than in this, and that with so much Diligence and Labour, that their whole Time is taken up in the Discharge of their Offices; nevertheless, they are not only contented with them, but sollicite them with the greatest Earnest-

Earnestness; for tho' they be of small Profit, yet they give Credit and Distinction to those that enjoy them. If the Fortunes to be made here are little, their Expence and Way of living are proportioned to them; and every Body, sooner or later, is sure of something, which he enjoys in Quiet and Security; whereas in most other Countries, where the Fortunes are greater and more splendid, there are but few that arrive to them, and those that do, are subject to very sudden and violent Revolutions.

I have observed, that the Senate is charged with the Dispatch of the ordinary Affairs of the Government: However there are several Commissions or separate Magistrates, appointed for the Direction of particular Affairs, and are all composed of Members of the Great Council.

The most important of which, is the Secret Council, consisting of the Avoyer out of Office, who presides, the Four Banderets, the Two Treasurers and the Two Secret Counsellors. To this Council are referred such Matters of State, as require greater Secrecy than is to be expected



sted in numerous Assemblies. They are invested with a Power of acting in many Cases, as they think most for the publick Good, without consulting the Great Council; tho' when the Danger of divulging the Secret be over, their Decisions must be ratified by it, before they can take Effect. They are likewise a sort of State-Inquisitors, who take Cognizance of all Matters, that may endanger the Publick Welfare.

The next is, The Chamber of *Banderets*, otherwise call'd the OEconomical Chamber, by which the Accounts of the Bailiffs, and of all others, that are accountable to the Sovereign, are examined and allowed. This Chamber is composed of the Banderets in Office and the two Treasurers who preside by Turns.

After that is The Consistory, which is a Chamber composed of Clergy and Laymen, tho' the latter are in greater Number, that the Supremacy of the Sovereign in Ecclesiastical Matters may be the better maintain'd. This Chamber takes Cognizance of all Matrimonial Causes of Adultery, Fornication, and of all other Offences against good Manners:

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Among which, that of Adultery was formerly punished with Death for the first Fact, but they have a few Years since abated somewhat of that Severity, and now put such Offenders to Death only upon the third Conviction; however for the first and second, they not only punish them by Fine and Imprisonment, and deprive the Offenders of their Employments, if they have any, but declare them incapable of exercising any for the future.

There is also a Magistracy appointed to superintend the Execution of the Sumptuary Laws, which they call *La Chambre de Reforme*. They are very exact in fining such as wear any thing that is prohibited, both because the Fines arising from thence are Perquisites of their Office, and because it highly concerns the State to have those Laws duly observed, for Reasons that shall be alledged in another Place.

I have already mentioned the Two Courts of Appeals for Civil Causes; besides which, there is an ordinary Court of Justice, where both Civil and Criminal Ones are tryed at *Berne* in the first Instance, according to the common Law of the Country, which  
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is chiefly grounded upon the Civil or old *Roman Law*; tho' they have many Customs and Statutes which differ from it, nor is the Civil Law, as such, received here any further, than it seems agreeable to Equity in the Case in Question,

There is likewise an Officer, call'd in *German* The *Gross-Weibel*; and in *French*, The *Gros Sautier*, who is at the Head of this ordinary Court of Justice, and is particularly appointed to preserve the Publick Peace of the City, and to punish such as break it, according to the Nature of the Offence.

These are the standing Magistracies or Commissions, that are always in being, and are all of the Great Council, except the Clergymen that are in the Consistory. Yet when any new Business arises, they appoint an extraordinary Commission or Committee to examine it, which subsists no longer than the Business referred to them requires.

Thus I have gone through the Form of the Government of *Berne*, and the several Parts of which it is compos'd; I have likewise taken Notice, as I went, of any essential Difference be-

tween it, and those of the other six Cantons with Cities, whether divided into Tribes, or not. There are indeed some Employments in the other six of different Names and Functions, as well as some peculiar Customs and Usages in each Canton; but as they make no real Change in the Frame of the Government, I purposely avoid entering into a nice Detail of em, which would take up a great deal of time without giving any Satisfaction to the Readers.

Neither is it to my Purpose in this Place, to set forth the Excellency of so well temper'd a Monarchy as Ours, beyond any other Species of Government. My Business here, is only to reason upon the different Kinds of Commonwealths in *Switzerland*, in order to shew their Advantages or Defects with Relation to one another, according to the Rules laid down by the warmest Advocates of Popular Schemes. The ablest of them agree, that a Commonwealth ought principally to guard it self by its Orders and Regulations from two Sorts of Seditious; one, among the Citizens, or Governing Part of the Commonwealth, which

which often happens, when there is an unequal Distribution of Employments among such as have an equal Right to pretend to ~~them~~ and the other, among the Subjects or Governed, which Case falls out, when they are ruled by unequal Laws, that put some Members in a worse Condition, than others of the same Commonwealth. By what I have said of the Government of these seven Cantons with Cities, it appears, that its Frame is equal enough in relation to the Interiour Parts of it, or among the Governing, but is very unequal in Relation to the Subjects or Governed, who are excluded from having any Share in it.

Other standing Maxims of Popular Governments are, That a Commonwealth, framed for Preservation, must have a well regulated Militia, equal *Agrarian* Laws, and an equal Rotation of Magistracy. A well regulated Militia, in Opposition to a standing Army of mercenary Troops, that may overturn a Government at Pleasure. Equal *Agrarian* Laws, that one or a few Families may not so far exceed the others in Riches, and consequently in Power, as thereby to en-

danger the Publick Liberty; and an equal Rotation of Magistracy, that each may have in his Turn his Share of the Power, and Benefit of the Government, in Proportion to his Merits.

All these Cases are found in the Government of these seven Cantons I now speak of. For First, they have a well regulated Militia, as I shall shew in another Place.

Secondly, they have in Effect a pretty equal Agrarian; since by their Laws, all their Children both Male and Female inherit in equal Portions; tho' the Father has a Power of disposing by Will of a Third of his Estate, to such Son or Sons as he favours most; so that the greatest Estates are soon divided into small Parcels, and consequently an Equality of Power is in some Measure preserved among the People.

Thirdly, There cannot be a more equal Rotation among the Magistrates; since, except some few, they are all changed every six Years, and each Member is employed in his Turn.

From these Considerations I am apt to believe, that the Sovereigns of these Cantons have little Cause to apprehend  
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any intestine Divisions among themselves; But as the Sovereign Councils have by degrees deprived the rest of the Citizens of many Privileges, and that the Principal Families endeavour still more and more to engross the Government to themselves, there have been seditious Insurrections in some Cities against the Magistrates, and more are to be feared, unless Care be taken to content the Bulk of the Citizens, by choosing a greater Number of them into the Administration.

But in relation to the Subjects, the Government is very unequal. The Sovereign Power is for ever lodged among the Citizens of the Capital of each Canton, out of the Body of which all the Members of the Great Council must be chosen, and all the good Employments exercised by Members of that Council; so that the Inhabitants of the rest of the Canton are totally excluded, from having any share in the Government. This Establishment was very reasonable in the Infancy of their Commonwealths, when their Territory reached but little beyond the Walls of their Cities, and for that reason makes no great Disproportion at present in

the Cantons of *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen*, because they are of very small Extent; but in the other Five, who have very much enlarged their Territory since the first Institution, there is so great a Disproportion, as may one Day endanger the Subversion of the Aristocratical Government among them. To Instance in that of *Berne*, where the Inequality is the most visible, because it is the largest Canton, it is certain, that there are not above Eighty Families, that have any Share in the Government at present, tho' there be above Three hundred and Sixty Families of Citizens in *Berne*, and that their Canton makes at least a third Part of *Switzerland*.

The different Frames of Popular Government, have been compared to several sorts of Columns or Pillars; and the most perfect of them to that of a Pyramid, which being largest at the Bottom, lessens by Degrees, as it rises, 'till it ends in a Point. And as the Foundation of it is broader than any other Part, it cannot sink under its own Weight, and is much harder to overturn, than a Pillar of any other Form. So the Politicians say, that a Government, which takes into its frame the whole  
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Mass of the People, and upon that Basis raises its Structure, must needs be more strong and durable, than any other, where the Foundation is narrowed, by leaving out good Numbers of the People, who are not only not interested in its Preservation, but perhaps on the contrary have Reason to wish its Overthrow. On the other Hand an Aristocratical Government is compared to a Pyramid inverted, or set on the little end, which must soon be crush'd by its own Weight, or else overturn'd by a small Force from without; so that as there are but few concern'd in its Preservation, and many in its Overthrow, in hopes of Governing in their turn, it seems scarce possible, that the Few should be long able to maintain their Ground against the Strength of the Many. I know this form of Government has subsisted for several Ages in these Cantons, and may probably do so longer, while they live in Peace; but upon any violent Concussion of these States, whether the Blow come from within or without, it is much to be feared, the Pyramid will be shoved down, and the Government overturned. In the space of Eight  
Years,

Years, I have seen Civil Commotions in *Geneva*, *Lucerne* and *Zurich*, occasioned by the Discontents of the Citizens with their Governors; for retrenching their Privileges, and engrossing still more Power to themselves; which have generally ended in satisfying them in their Grievances. For it is observed of late Years; that the Citizens gain Ground upon the Governors, and force them to re-instate them in several Privileges, which they had by degrees taken from them. But all these Reforms end only in the greater or less Number of Privileges granted to the Citizens of the Capital, and no way concern the Bulk of the People, that live in the rest of the Canton. The Inference I would draw from this Observation, is, that if Discontents and Civil Commotions arise in the Capitals of these Little States, how much more justly may they be apprehended in the Great Ones, where the Inequality of the Government is so much the greater, as the Extent of Territory is so?

It is true indeed; there are two Considerations, which seem to promise  
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Peace and Security to the Government of these Cantons. One is, that they lay scarce any Taxes upon their Subjects, who are certainly the most free and easie of any in the World; so that they have no reason to fear Insurrections from that great Source of Popular Discontent. And the other is, that all the Cantons are, by their mutual Alliances, obliged to succour one another in the Support of that form of Government, which each has embraced. But I doubt neither of these Securities are much to be relied on: For by what I can observe, the Subjects think no Mildness in the Government, can make them Amends for the Hardship of being excluded from their share in it; And as to the Security grounded on their mutual Assistance, besides, that it is a dangerous Experiment, to call in Strangers to pacifie Domestick Broils, the Protestants and Catholicks have so little Affection one for another, that there is no Reason to believe, one would do any thing for the Preservation of another of a different Religion. And as to the Canton of *Berne* in particular, all the other are so jealous of  
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its overgrown Power, that there is no one of the Twelve, which would not be glad to see its Strength and Territory lessened. It were therefore heartily to be wished, that these Aristocratical Cantons, and especially that of *Berne*, could find out some way of enlarging their Foundation, by letting greater Numbers of the People into the Administration; which would Interest them more in the Defence of it. It is true indeed, that some few Families in the *Pais de Vaud*, have at different times been made Citizens of *Berne*, and that at every Promotion, Two Citizens of that Province are chosen into the Great Council; but that is so small a Number in proportion to the Gentry of it, that the Benefit is not felt by the Bulk of the People.

As to the Government of the Six other Cantons, *Ury*, *Schwitz*, *Underwald*, *Zug*, *Glaris* and *Appenzel*, it is wholly Democratical, and is so plain and artless, that it will be easie to give an Idea of it in few Words.

Each of these Cantons is divided into more or less Communities or Districts, according to its Extent, the largest

largest whereof, I think, has Twelve, some Six and others Four. Every Community forms in some Respects an independent Sovereignty, judging its own Members, without Appeal, both in Civil and Criminal Matters, wherein the rest of the Canton is not concerned. But as to the Management of Publick Affairs, each Community chuses one Deputy, all which Deputies meet at the Place appointed, and form the standing Council of the Canton. And if there be any Matter to be treated of more than ordinary Importance, they send two and sometimes three Deputies apiece. This Council has the Management of the ordinary Affairs of the State, but with a limited Power; for the Sovereignty resides absolutely in the universal Mass and Body of the People. Every Male in the Country, from Sixteen Years of Age upwards, has his Voice, and the Gentleman and his Servant have an equal Share in the Sovereignty. But these Assemblies of the People are not very frequent, by reason of the Inconveniences that attend them: They generally meet once or twice a Year, to chuse

chuse their Publick Magistrates or Deputies, to be sent to the Diets, tho' they are called together oftner, as there happens to be Occasion for their Consent or Approbation of any Publick Act. The chief Officer of the Canton is called *Land-Aman*: He is chosen by the Assembly of the whole People, who in all Questions give their Affirmative Votes, by holding up their Hands. His Post resembles in its Functions, those of Avoyer or Burgo-master; but instead of being continued, as they are, for Life, he is changed in some of these Cantons every Year, and in others, every two Years. He presides constantly both in their standing Council, and in the Assemblies of the People, and in general is the chief Director of the Affairs of the Country, with the Assistance of the Council. At the same time that they chuse a *Land-Aman*, they chuse his Deputy, which they call *Stadtbalter*, who officiates during his Absence or Indisposition. They have likewise their Treasurers, Secretaries, and other Publick Officers, who are chosen by the Assembly of the People, and are from time to time confirmed or changed, according

ing to the different Customs in the several Cantons.

This is all that is necessary to be said of the Government of these petty Cantons; which, by allowing each Member an equal Share in it, seems to interest every Part in the Preservation of the Whole. It is true indeed, that the common People here are generally rul'd in their Opinions by the Gentry, whom they suppose to be wiser than themselves; but then they make them answerable in a manner for the Success, and often punish severely such as have given them Advice, that has proved pernicious.

As Aristocratical Governments fail by the Narrowness of their Foundation, so do the Democratical Ones for want of good Rules and Orders: The former, say the Politicians, degenerate usually into Oligarchy, and the latter fall into Anarchy. So much is certain, that where the whole Body of the People are allowed to debate Matters of State in publick Assemblies, Confusion cannot be avoided; as on the other Side, where the People are never consulted by themselves, or  
their

their Representatives, they will have little Concern for the Welfare of a Government they have no part in, and perhaps will be glad to see an Old one destroyed, in hopes of mending their Condition in a New. And as to the different Commonwealths established in these Cantons, I will venture to say, what I know will seem a Paradox in the Aristocratical ones; which is, that the Government of the Popular Cantons comes nearer to, or at least may more easily be made a perfect Commonwealth, than the other. To make the Popular Governments so, there wants nothing, but to send a Deputy from each Community of the Cantons; all which should form a Petty Council or College, whose Business should be only to prepare and digest Matters. Afterwards, Four or Five Deputies more should be elected out of each Community, to form a Senate, in imitation of the *Pregadi* at *Venice*, in order to Examine and Debate what the Petty Council shall think fit to offer for the Publick Good; and then, what this Senate has approved, should be proposed to the Publick Assembly of the People, not to Debate upon, but only  
to



to approve or reject. Thus the Petty Council proposing, the Senate debating, and the People chusing, do, in the Opinion of the most famous Republicans, form a perfect Commonwealth; provided the Deputies, that compose these Two Councils, be regularly changed by a settled Rotation.

This Establishment seems to me very easie to be introduced in the Popular Cantons; whereas in the Aristocratical Ones, the whole Frame of the Government must be broken to Pieces to bring it about, which is a Change not to be hoped for, while it is the Interest of those that govern, to keep the Power always in their Hands. Nay, upon the Foot these Two forms of Government now stand, I will venture to affirm, The Popular one will in all Probability last the longer: For though through want of good Rules, and by reason of the Debates allowed in the Assemblies of the People, there will happen Confusion and Disorders, which must needs shake it, yet, as it rests upon the Basis of the whole Body of the People, it will very hardly be overthrown; whereas I have already shewn, why the A-

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ristocratical Governments are easily subverted.

Upon the whole, I know there is nothing so easie, as to find Faults in every Form of Government, and nothing so hard, as to shew a perfect One reduced to Practice; whereof the Chief Reason perhaps may be, that scarce any Legislator has been at Liberty to cast his Frame at once, and pursue one entire compact Scheme. Most of the Plans of Government settled in the World; seem to have been formed like Houses built at several times; for as the old Parts of them always deface the new, and render them irregular, so upon the Establishment of any new Frame of Government, something of the Old is still preserved, and enters into the Frame of the New, which is not of a Piece with it, and consequently spoils its Symmetry.

C H A P.

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## CHAP. V.

*Of their Diets, and of the Helvetic  
Union.*

**H**AVING given an Account of the Form of Government established in each Particular Canton, it seems necessary in the next place, to say something of their publick Government in their Diets, wherein the Majesty of the *Helvetic* Body is represented, by Deputies from all the Cantons in general.

A General Diet of the Cantons usually meets once a Year, at the Feast of *St. John Baptist*, and lasts not above a Month, unless some extraordinary Affairs intervene. The Occasion of its Meeting, is chiefly to examine the Accounts of the Governors of their common Bailliages; to hear and determine any Appeals from the Sentences of those Governors, both in Civil and Criminal Matters; to inquire into their

Conduct, and punish their Misbehaviour; to redress any Grievances the Subjects of those Bailliages may labour under; to compose any Differences, that may arise among the Cantons or their Allies; and in short, to consider of the Measures most proper to be taken, for the common Good and Safety of the whole *Helvetic* Body, with Relation to the present Juncture of Affairs both at home and abroad. These are the ordinary Occupations of this Midsummer-Diet, besides which, some Extraordinary ones generally arise. For the Ministers of Foreign Princes and States residing among them, commonly make use of that Opportunity, to apply themselves to the *Helvetic* Body, either by an Audience or Memorial, when they have any thing to propose to them for the Service of their Masters: And the *French* Ambassador in particular, goes regularly to the Diet to make his Compliments, tho' he have nothing to Negotiate with them.

Besides this Annual Diet, which meets of Course at the time appointed, each Canton has the Liberty of Summoning one Extraordinarily, whenever it finds Occasion; and the Minister of a-  
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ny Foreign Prince may convoke one, as often as he thinks his Master's Service requires it, provided it be call'd at his Charge, that is, upon his defraying the Expences of the Deputies. So that there seldom passes a Year, wherein one extraordinary Diet at least is not called, upon some of these Occasions.

The Diet consists of two Deputies from each Canton, who take their Places according to the Rank of the Cantons they represent: besides which, the Abbot of *St. Gal*, and the Cities of *St. Gal* and of *Bienne* send their Deputies to it, as Allies. *Zurich* being the first Canton, its first Deputy always presides at the Diets, proposes the Matters to be debated, collects the Votes, forms the Resolutions, and does all the other Functions of a President of an Assembly. This Canton, properly speaking, not only presides in the Diets, but in all other Times and Places; for it is its Office to convoke the Diets, by writing Circular Letters to the Cantons, to acquaint them with the Reasons of calling them together, and desire them to send their Deputies instructed upon the Points

therein mentioned. The *Zurich* Deputies likewise form the *Abscheid*, as they call it, at the breaking up of the Diet, which is sent to all the Cantons, and contains the Results of their Deliberations; so that they are the Secretaries as well as Presidents of these Assemblies, and always are the Spokesmen, when the Deputies of the Cantons are sent to Compliment, or treat with the Minister of any Foreign Prince.

Before the Change of Religion, which happen'd in *Switzerland* about the same time as in *Germany*, none but General Diets were known, and the Common Interest of their Country was promoted with great Zeal and Unanimity: But since one Part of the Cantons embraced the Reform'd Religion, and the other stuck to the Roman-Catholick, their State, as well as their Church, has been divided. From that time the Mutual Confidence has been lost, the Zeal of each Party for its Religion has produced Enmities, and Jealousies of one another's Designs; so that one may say, the Reformation gave a Blow, which has split the *Helvetic* Body in two; For as the Interest of  
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Religion enters more or less into all their Publick Actions, the General Diets are now only kept up, to regulate the Affairs of their common Bailiages, and to maintain an outward Appearance of Union among them; whereas indeed all Publick Affairs of Consequence, are treated at the particular Diets of the two Religions, whereof those of the Protestants are held at *Arraw*, and those of the Roman Catholics at *Lucerne*; which being the most powerful Canton among them, acts as their Head, as *Zurich* is at the Head of the Protestants. There are no fixed times for convoking these Particular Diets; so they are summoned extraordinarily, whenever either Party thinks it necessary.

The close Alliances, by which the Thirteen Cantons are linked to one another, their manner of acting, as Members of one Body, in their Diets, and the many Treaties they have jointly entered into with several Foreign Princes and States, have given Ground for an Opinion, which is generally received in the World, that these Thirteen Cantons make but One Commonwealth, like the States of the *United*

*Provinces*; yet whoever will take the Pains to enquire into the Foundation of their Union, will find them so many independent Commonwealths, joyned indeed by very strict Alliances for their mutual Defence, but so far from making but one Sovereignty, or one Body, that there is not so much as any one Publick Act or Instrument, by which they are bound together, or wherein the Thirteen Cantons are reciprocally engaged each to the other. So that if they are supposed to make but one Body, it must be a Body without a Head, or else with as many Heads as they are Cantons; either of which Suppositions forms as monstrous a Production in Artificial Bodies, as in Natural.

The first League among them, that was put down in writing, was framed between the Three Cantons of *Ury*, *Schwitz* and *Underwald*, immediately after their Victory at *Morigarten* in the Year 1315, about Eight Years after they had shaken off the Yoke of the House of *Austria*, and were yet uncertain, whether they should be able to preserve their Liberty, against the Attempts of those Princes to reduce them to Obedience. The Con-  
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tents of it are: “ That each Canton  
“ shall assist and succour the others with  
“ their utmost Force, and at their  
“ own Expence, against all Persons  
“ or States, that should assault or mo-  
“ lest any of them; that neither of  
“ the Cantons shall submit to receive a-  
“ ny new Sovereign without the Know-  
“ ledge and Consent of the others;  
“ That none shall enter into any En-  
“ gagement or Alliance with any o-  
“ ther Prince or State, without the  
“ said Consent; and that, if any Dif-  
“ ference should arise between any  
“ Two of these confederated Can-  
“ tons, the Third shall be the Arbitra-  
“ tor, and shall be obliged to assist  
“ that Canton, which submits to its  
“ Arbitration, against the other that  
“ shall refuse it.

Afterwards, as the Cantons increas'd  
in Number, another Alliance was for-  
med between the Eight Old Ones,  
which was ratified in the Year 1481,  
whereof the Tenour is, “ That the  
“ Alliance be only defensive, and that  
“ none of the Cantons shall be obli-  
“ ged to assist any other in an offen-  
“ sive War; that, least any War  
“ might

“ might be rashly undertaken, the  
 “ Cause of Complaint given to any  
 “ one Canton, shall be communicated  
 “ to all the others; who shall judge of  
 “ the Reasonableness of it; which if  
 “ they find well grounded, and that  
 “ there be sufficient Cause to make  
 “ War, then they shall assist the com-  
 “ plaining or injured Canton, but not  
 “ otherwise: However they shall first  
 “ send Deputies to the offending Par-  
 “ ty, to endeavour to make up the Dif-  
 “ ference, if possible; that so the Can-  
 “ tons may not proceed to a War, but  
 “ when all Hopes of Accommodation  
 “ are lost. That, when the War is  
 “ broke out, all the Cantons, without  
 “ any further Summons or Delay,  
 “ shall send their utmost Force to the  
 “ Succour and Relief of the Canton  
 “ that is attack'd, or else employ  
 “ their Troops in making a Diversi-  
 “ on of the Enemy's Forces, as may  
 “ be thought most expedient. That  
 “ as long as the War lasts, the Aux-  
 “ iliary Troops shall be maintain'd by  
 “ the respective Cantons that send  
 “ them; that if any Siege is to be un-  
 “ dertaken, for the particuler Service  
 “ of

“ of any one Canton, that Canton shall,  
“ defray the extraordinary Charge, of,  
“ it; but if it be for the joint Service,  
“ of them all, then each Canton to,  
“ pay its Proportion. That no Can-  
“ ton shall be obliged to march its  
“ Auxiliaries out of the Limits of  
“ *Switzerland* upon any Pretence  
“ whatsoever. That upon any Dis-  
“ ference, which shall arise between  
“ Two or more of the Cantons, the o-  
“ thers shall use their utmost Endeav-  
“ ours to compose it. In order  
“ whereto, each Party may chuse two  
“ Judges of their own Cantons, if  
“ they will, who shall take an Oath to  
“ judge impartially between them;  
“ and if they cannot agree, a fifth  
“ Judge shall be chosen as Umpire,  
“ who shall decide the Controversie  
“ by a Definitive Sentence, which all the  
“ Cantons shall join in the Execution  
“ of; as they shall likewise be obliged  
“ to succour that Party, which is wil-  
“ ling to stand by the Umpire’s Judg-  
“ ment, against the other that declines  
“ it, if it should so happen. The  
“ Five first Cantons also oblige them-  
“ selves to make no League with any  
“ other

“ other Prince or State, without the  
 “ Consent of each other; but the re-  
 “ maining Three reserve to themselves,  
 “ that Liberty, Provided the League,  
 “ they enter into, contain nothing that  
 “ may be prejudicial to this Alliance,  
 “ which is always to be preferred to  
 “ any other as the most ancient. And,  
 “ Lastly, it is stipulated, That the Ob-  
 “ servation of this Alliance shall be  
 “ solemnly sworn to, every five or  
 “ ten Years at farthest.

These are the Contents of the Alli-  
 ance between the Eight Old Cantons,  
 except some Articles relating to Cri-  
 minals, with others of too little Im-  
 portance to the Publick, to be parti-  
 cularly mentioned.

There was indeed another Meeting  
 of the Eight Cantons, at a Place called  
*Stantz* in the Country of *Underwald*,  
 soon after this Alliance was formed,  
 wherein two Articles were added to  
 it. One whereof is, “ That all the  
 “ Cantons oblige themselves to suc-  
 “ cour one another, in the Support  
 “ of the Form of Government then  
 “ establish'd in each of them. And  
 the other, “ That a Body of Mili-  
 “ tary

“ tary Laws therein referred to, should  
 “ be received throughout the whole  
 “ Nation, and the Observation of  
 “ them enjoined.

From that time to this, no new Alliance has been made between them, tho’ Five other Cantons have been since received into the *Helvetic* Body. Nay, so far are they from making one Body, or one Commonwealth, that only the Three Old Cantons are directly allied with every one of the other Twelve. There is indeed such a Connexion established between them, that, in case any one Canton were attacked, all the other Twelve would be obliged to march to its Succour; but it would be by Vertue of the Relation, that Two Cantons may have to a Third, and not of any direct Alliance subsisting between every one of them. As for Example, of the Eight Old Cantons, *Lucerne* has a Right of calling but Five to its Succour, in case of Attack; but then some of those Five have a Right of calling others, with whom they are allied, tho’ *Lucerne* be not; so that at last, all must march by vertue of Particular Alliances,

ances, and not of any General One among them all.

Since therefore there is no Act or Instrument, by which they are all incorporated into one Body, nor so much as a Particular Alliance of each Canton with every one of the others, there can be no Ground to maintain, that they make but one Commonwealth or Sovereignty. The truth of it is, that they have nothing in common, which proves any Dependence one on the other: There is no common Civil Judicature in being, that has the Right of obliging all the Cantons by its Decisions; there is no common Treasure, no common Coin, nor any one common Mark of Sovereignty; but on the contrary, each enjoys them all in its own particular Canton. Each exercises the Right of making particular Treaties with Foreign Princes and States, of sending and receiving Publick Ministers, and of doing separately all other Acts of Sovereignty; and if the Thirteen Cantons send any Ambassadors abroad, they never chuse One or Two to represent them all, but each Canton sends its own Representatives, to shew  
its

its Right of Sovereignty. From whence it plainly appears, that those Princes, who refuse to treat the Ministers of any Particular Canton as Ambassadors, and to pay them the Honours due to that Character, when they are invested with it by their Superiors, cannot justify their Proceeding by any good Reasons.

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C H A P.

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## CHAP. VI.

### *Of their People and Dispositions.*

**T**HERE is no one Quality so universally allowed to the *Switzers*, as that of Valour; and those Nations, who rally them for other pretended Defects, not only confess their Bravery, but are glad to pay dearly for the Service of their Troops. In all the Records of past Ages, where-ever we find the *Helvetians* mention'd, it is very much to their Honour upon that Account. *Livy* and *Cæsar* speak of them in their Writings, as of a brave warlike People; and they have ever since kept up that Character in the World. The long Wars, which they maintain'd against the House of *Austria*, with so much Courage and Success, in defence of their Liberty, raised their Reputation to such a Height, that the most powerful Princes of *Europe* coveted their Alliance. The Popes have often used them for the Support of their Spiritual Empire; and the obstinate



stinate Defence they made, with a Handful of Men, in a Battel near *Bazil*, against a powerful Army commanded by *Lewis* the Eleventh of *France* when Dauphin, gave that Prince the first Desire of making an Alliance with them, and of engaging a Body of their Troops in his Service. The *Sforza's* Dukes of *Milan*, owed the Recovery of their Dukedom to the Alliance and Support of the *Switzers*; and *Charles* the Bold the last Duke of *Burgundy*, owed his Misfortunes and Death to the Enmity he had conceived, and the Wars he waged against them.

Their Troops are as famous for their Fidelity to the Service they engage in, as for their Courage: Insomuch that in all their History, there is scarce to be found any Example of Treachery among them. We have seen on the contrary, in the Two last Wars between the Allies and *France*, singular Proofs of their Fidelity; and that not only *Swiss* Troops in general, but even those of the same Canton, and commanded by Friends and Relations, being in different Service, have charged one another with great Fury, and without any Suspicion of Collusion between

them. It is indeed laid to their Charge, that they formerly deliver'd to the *French*, *Lewis Sforza* Duke of *Milan* firnamed the *Moor*, who, in order to save himself, march'd with them in the Habit of a *Swiss* Soldier, but was discover'd by one of them named *Turman*, and put into the Hands of his Enemies, who sent him Prisoner to *France*. But this can be reckon'd only the Act of one single Man, and ought not to be imputed to the whole Nation; the rather because the same History of the Wars of *Milan* says, that the *Swiss* Troops were so much incensed against this *Turman* for his Treachery, that they condemned him to be torn in Four Quarters by Horses, and immediately put the Sentence in Execution. Except this single Instance in a private Soldier, I meet with none in their History; unless one would reckon the Suspicion justly enough conceived against an Officer in the Duke of *Savoy's* Service, during the late War with *France*, who after having abandon'd his Post without defending it, went over to the Enemy, by whom he was not only kindly received, but advanced.

Thus

Thus the Fidelity and Courage of the Troops of this Nation, have induced the Kings of *France*, from the time of their first Alliance, not only to keep a good Body of them in constant Pay, but, the more to engage their Affections, to grant them great Privileges in that Kingdom, and maintain a Regiment of *Swiss* Guards always on Foot, chusing to trust their Persons to the Custody of the *Switzers*, rather than to their natural Subjects. And the *Dutch* sufficiently shew the Value they put upon the *Swiss* Troops, by keeping on foot a Body of Ten Thousand of them in time of Peace, at the same time that they break National Ones, and tho' the *Swiss* Pay be considerably greater.

It is a general Charge against the *Switzers*, that they traffick with Men as with other Merchandize, and sell their Troops to those who will pay best for them, without considering the Merits of the Cause they are to fight for. This is a received Opinion in the World; yet is known to be a very groundless one by such as have lived among them, and are acquainted with

their Maxims, as will better appear from the following Considerations.

In the first Place, They never grant Troops to any Prince or State, but by Vertue of some preceding Alliance; nor do I know of more than one Instance, wherein they have acted contrary to this Maxim; and that was in the Year 1694, when several Companies were raised in the Canton of *Berne*, for the Service of the States General; yet even in that Case, the Canton proceeded with all imaginable Caution: For tho' an Alliance with the *Dutch* was promised them at the same time, which they knew would be very advantageous to their Affairs; yet because it was not actually made, they suffered indeed some private Citizens to raise Companies by Connivance for the *Dutch* Service, but the Sovereign was not concern'd in the Levy, nor would own them for National Troops, 'till the Peace of *Ryswick* was made.

Next it is to be observed as another Maxim of theirs, that they grant Troops only for the Defence of the State they are given to, and not to act offensively: So that they never permit the *Swiss* Troops in the *French* Service,

Service, to invade the *Empire* or *Holland*; nor on the contrary, such as are in the Service of those Two, to invade *France*. There are indeed Examples of *Swiss* Officers, who have acted contrary to this Maxim, to make their Court to the State they served; but their Sovereign has never approved their Conduct in so doing, and has often fined and punished such as have transgress'd this Rule. As on the contrary, there are Examples of *Swiss* Officers in the *French* Service, that have quitted good Posts, because they would not march with their Regiments into *Holland* and the *Empire*, in the War of 1672.

Thirdly, all Levies for any Foreign Service, that are not authorized by the State, are forbid under severe Penalties; and such as offend that way, are sure to be punish'd, if they are discovered.

And Fourthly, the Sovereign never receives any Subsidy, or other Advantage from the Prince or State, to whom a Levy of Troops is granted. The Cantons content themselves with giving such Auxiliary Troops, as are stipulated by their Alliances, and pro-

ring a Beneficial Service to their Subjects, without reserving any Profit to themselves. So that it plainly appears from these Limitations, that the common Reproach of their selling Men is very undeserved, and ought perhaps less to be charged upon them, than upon some of their Neighbours. Tho' I must add, that what I say of the *Switzers* upon this Subject, ought to be restrain'd chiefly to the Protestant Cantons: For it must be owned, that the Conduct of the Catholick Ones, especially of those they call the Petty Ones, is by no Means so regular, and gives often Occasion, in other Cases as well as this, of drawing Reproaches upon the whole Nation from Strangers, who do not enough distinguish between them.

The Reputation of the *Switzers* for Wit, runs so low in the World, that whoever undertakes to defend them upon that head, is in danger of being thought to have a very little Share of it himself. However that Consideration shall not deter me from doing them Justice, both because I am of Opinion, that very little Stress is to be laid upon National Characters, and  
because

because I find, that Strangers, who have lived among them, do not think they deserve the Character they have upon that Account. It would be giving too much weight to such an Imputation, to refute it seriously: Wherefore I shall content myself with saying, that I have no where met with Men of more sound and clear Judgment, of greater Dexterity in the Management of Affairs, nor of more lively Conversation, with true Wit and Genuine Humour, than are to be found among some of that Nation, who have had the advantage of a good Education improved by Travel. And I will be bold to affirm further, that I have seen some Subjects treated by a Gentleman of that Country, with so great Penetration, such Justness of Thought, and Clearness of Expression, that the keenest Wit of *Spain* or *Italy*, would have been proud to have been the Author of his Writings. Yet the heaviest Nations of *Europe*, think they have a Right of rallying the *Switzers* for their Dulness; tho' there seems to be no other Ground for it, than that of the Poverty of their Country: For I am apt to think, that what *Juvenal* says of single Persons,

*Nil habet infelix Paupertas durius  
in se,  
Quàm quod ridiculos homines facit.—*

will be found to be as true of whole Nations; and that a poor People, like a poor Man, appears to many an Object of Scorn. But the truth is, the *Switzers* owe this Part of their Character chiefly to the *French*, who lay Bulls and Blunders to their Charge, much of the same Sort, as those we father upon the *Irish*, and expose them upon their Stage, as the greatest Block-heads in *Europe*. This unmerciful manner, with which the *French* treat them, both in their Conversation and Writings, has spread an ill Opinion of them where they are not known, and taught Nations to laugh at them, that are not to be compared to them. The *Switzers* are so sensible of the Prejudice their Character lies under upon this Score, and, at the same time, know so well they don't deserve it, that they very frankly tell you more ridiculous Stories of themselves, than you can hear from others; and prove, by their Example, the Justness of the  
*French*



*French* Proverb in this Particular, *That nothing but Truth is shocking.* By all that I could observe, the *French*, who laugh at the *Switzers*, are generally out-witted by them, when they treat of any Business; and I have seen some *French-men*, who gave themselves the Liberty of rallying them in Conversation, so shamefully out-done by them at their own Weapon, Wit, that I am mistaken, if they have not ever since had quite another Opinion of the Nation. However, the Prejudice runs so strong against them upon that Account, that it would be as difficult, as it is needless to remove it. Nay, some of the *Switzers* themselves, have the Weakness so far to favour that Prejudice, especially those of *Neufchatel* and *Geneva*, whose natural Tongue is *French*, that they look upon it as a real Misfortune to be *Switzers*, and don't care to pass for such, but in Case of Need, that is, when they want the Protection of the Cantons.

One may divide the People of *Switzerland* into three Orders or Classes; first, the Peasants; secondly, the Gentry and Vassals; and thirdly, the Citizens. The first are an honest, robust  
and

and laborious People, whom Necessity has taught to be excellent Husbandmen, and to make the utmost Advantage of an ungrateful Soil: So that by Application and Industry, some of them arrive at great Riches for People of that Rank, it being no extraordinary thing, to see a Farmer worth forty or fifty thousand Crowns. They are Affectionate to their Sovereigns in the Aristocratical Cantons, who, on the other side, govern them with great Mildness. They have been always used to live in a State of Liberty, of which they are very jealous, and so little acquainted with Taxes, that it would be a dangerous Experiment to go about to lay any new ones upon them. These Qualities necessarily form good Soldiers, and render them not only hardy and patient of Fatigue, but bold in Action, and obedient in Discipline. What I say of the Peasants here, is to be understood chiefly of those of the *German* Country; for the others of the *Pais de Vaud* have not so good a Reputation; they are accused of Laziness, and of being given to Stealing. These Vices are generally imputed to the Goodness of their Soil; which

which not finding them Employment enough the Year round, leaves too much spare time to People formed only for bodily Work. However, in other Respects, they equally deserve the Character I have given of the Peasants.

By the Vassals and Gentry, I mean such of the better Sort, as are not Citizens of the Capital of any Canton, and are consequently excluded from all Employments at Home, whether they live in Subjection to any one Canton, or to many. This Class of People, in my Opinion, is the least happy of any in *Switzerland*. For tho' such as have Lands and Seigneuries, enjoy them in great Security, and pay little or nothing to the Sovereign; yet being incapacitated for all Employments of Trust, (unless one would reckon the Petty Magistracies in their Cities) and living in a Country where Trade is dead, and little to be got by any Profession, the easiest of them have much ado to be contented with their Condition. And for the rest, the only Refuge they have, is to seek their Fortune in some Foreign Service; whereof there are but few that succeed; partly from the Difficulties that Strangers meet

meet with every where, in establishing themselves at a Court, and partly from the Advantage, which the Citizens of their own Country have over them, as to the Military Service; since the Cantons always prefer their Citizens to their Subjects, when they give Troops to any Foreign Prince or State.

As to the Citizens of the Aristocratical Cantons, especially that of *Berne*, which I always have chiefly in view, they may be divided into Three Classes, the Trades-men and Merchants, the Pen-men, and the Military Men. The first are generally esteemed to be proud and lazy; which Qualities chiefly proceed from two Privileges they enjoy. One is, their Right of being chosen into the Government by Vertue of their Burgeship, which makes them proud; and the other is, that of hindering any but a Citizen, from exercising any Trade within the Cities, which makes them lazy. From whence two Inconveniencies naturally flow: One, that the Inhabitants pay very dear for their Goods; and the other, that the Workmen are bad; for where there  
is

is no great Choice of Artificers, one must be contented not only with bad Work, but to pay such a Price for it, as they please to impose.

The Wholesale Merchants are few, and only in the three Cantons of *Zurich*, *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen*: In the others, where there is little Trade, they are rather Shopkeepers than Merchants, and make but a small Figure.

They call such Pen-Men, as have never been in any Military Service abroad, nor exercised any Trade at home. This Branch of the Citizens in the Cantons, where there is little Trade, have no Fortune to hope for, but by their Bailliages; so that all their Thoughts are taken up about getting into the Great Council; For when they are once in, a Bailliage cannot fail them sooner or later; in the mean time they live upon their Rents, and are employed in the Under-Magistracies of the City.

The Military Men are such as have served, and do serve in the Armies of some Foreign Prince or State, who are the most esteemed of any sort, both because they are the most Polite, and because the Trade of Arms is reckon-  
ed

ed here the most honourable. These usually continue in some Foreign Service, 'till they have got Money enough to live easie, then return home, and put in for some Bailliage, if they are of the Great Council; if not, they seldom quit, 'till they are grown very old, or have some other particular Reason. But such as are qualified to pretend to an Employment, must quit; for they cannot enjoy any at home, while they are in Service abroad.

It is certain, that the most considerable Fortunes, that have been made in *Switzerland*, have been raised by Military Service, and chiefly by that of *France*; and the Genius of the Nation still leads the People to a Soldier's Life preferably to any other: However, I have heard it with Reason maintain'd, that considering how many Officers are killed, or otherwise miscarry, before they can get a Post considerable enough to save Money out of it, and that all the Subalterns, who cannot live on their Pay, are forced to spend of their own, it will be found upon the whole, that more Money goes out of the Country, than is brought into it, by Foreign Service.

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Among the Citizens, there are several Noble Families, that were formerly both Wealthy and Powerful, whereof there are Six in particular at *Berne*, which are called Noble by way of Distinction : But they have long since been mixed with the Body of the Citizens, and now enjoy no Preheminence above them, but the small ones of being called *Jüncker*, and of taking the Hand, as being *Primus inter Pares*.

The Country is extremely Populous, and the Women the most fertile, I believe, of any in *Europe*. One generally finds Nine or Ten Children in a Family, and sometimes double the Number. Nay there are Men in more than one Canton now alive, who have above an hundred Persons of both Sexes, descended from their Loyns. The Catholick Cantons have the common Refuge of Convents, to ease Families that are overstock'd with Children; but among the Protestants, these numerous Offsprings are very burthensome, and make the richest Man seem poor, when his Estate comes to be divided equally among them, according to their Laws, which I gave an account of in the Chapter of their Government.

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Tho' great Numbers of Children are very chargeable to Families; yet Marriage does no where so universally obtain. And it is indeed made necessary by their Laws; for among the Protestants, no Body can have any Bailliage or other Employment of Profit, that is not, or has not been married. So that if they did not continually drain their Country, by keeping Troops in Foreign Service, they would soon be so much overstock'd, in proportion to the Extent and Fertility of it, that in all Probability, they would break in upon their Neighbours in Swarms, or go further to seek out new Seats, as their Ancestors attempted to do in the time of *Julius Caesar*, and as the *Huns* and other Northern Nations did, upon the Declension of the *Roman Empire*.

In the Education of their Youth, they initiate them betimes in the Profession, for which they design them; and after some time spent at a Grammar School, send them abroad, if they can afford it: Those that are design'd for Trade, are sent to learn it in *Holland*, *France*, or the *Empire*; and such as are destined to Arms, are entred Cadets in some *Swiss* Regiment abroad,  
either



either in the *French* or *Dutch* Service, according as they are inclined, or as they see a Prospect of rising; so that their want of good Education at home, puts them in a way of seeking it abroad, which generally turns to their Advantage in the Course of their Lives.

It is observed of the *Switzers*, that they learn the Language, and put on the Manners and Fashions of the Countries where they live, with great Ease. They study them at first to render themselves agreeable, and by Degrees make them habitual; so that it is not difficult to find out, by the Air and Dress of a *Swiss* Officer, in what Country he serves. Those that serve in *France* for Example, appear as different in their Dress and Humours, from those that serve in *Holland*, as if they were two Nations. The former wear very gay Cloaths, have a Forwardness in their Behaviour, and a Loquacity in their Conversation, which they catch in that Country; while the latter are generally plain in their Dress, modest in their Manners, and reserved in their Discourse; whereof the former Qualities are more taking with the Women of their Country, and the latter

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with the Men, as more agreeable to their natural Tempers.

There are not wanting in this Country learned Men in the two Great Professions of Divinity and Law, especially in the Universities of *Bazil*, *Berne* and *Lausanne*, as well as at *Zurich*; but, generally speaking, their Clergymen are only Divines, and their Lawyers meer Lawyers; few are to be found of an universal Knowledge; and as few, that have a fine Taste of Polite Learning. This Defect does not proceed from want of Genius in the People, but rather, in my Opinion, from want of Leisure and Ease in their Fortunes. Every Man, as he grows up, betakes himself betimes to some Profession, or is otherwise busied in the Care of his Fortune, which the fashion of Marrying Young makes necessary; so that there are few, whose Minds are free enough from domestick Cares, to employ their Time in unprofitable Speculations, which are the proper Amusement only of the Wealthy and the Idle. This will be easily allowed, when it is known, that Parents here never divest themselves in Favour of their Children, of any considerable  
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Part of their Estates during their Lives; they give them small Portions when they Marry, then leave the young Couple to live upon the Interest of the Mony as they can, and keep House for themselves. Few among the richest of them will give a Son, when he Marries, a Sum in Principal of a Thousand Pound, and the Generality not above half so much; so that with all the Thriftiness and good Husbandry possible, there are none of them that can live upon the Interest of their Portions, without running in Debt.

The *Switzers* have been noted, during many Ages, for great Candour in their Dealings, and Simplicity in their Manners, as well as in their Dress. But those who examine them at present, do not think they deserve that Character, so well as they did formerly; and I have heard many of them complain of the Luxury and general Corruption of Manners, introduced of late Years among them, which they chiefly attribute to the Officers, that return from Foreign Service, and particularly from that of *France*. However that be, it is certain, that the Cantons of *Berne*, *Fribourg* and *Soleurre*, that are

in the Neighbourhood of *France*, have much more of the Airs and Manners of that Nation in their way of Living, than the others that are more distant; and it is a wonder to me, how the Town of *Bazil*, that is situated upon the Frontiers of *France*, has so long maintain'd its Ruffs and old *Swiss* Dress, both in Men and Women, against the general Contagion of the *French* Modes. In the Three former Cantons, the *French* Language is more used among the Better sort, than the *German*; insomuch that there are many of both Sexes, that cannot write their own Tongue. The Use of the *French* Language has introduced the Freedom of their Behaviour both in Men and Women, and has been followed by that of their Dress, or at least an Imitation of it, as far as their Purfes can reach; and would be carried to a yet greater Excess, if the People were left at Liberty to follow their own Inclinations. But here the Magistrate has wisely interposed, and put a Curb upon their Vanity, by prohibiting all costly Apparel; otherwise it were to be feared, that they would ruin themselves,

selves, by imitating a Nation, they are not able to vye with in Expence.

These Modes the *French* introduce under the Notion of Politeness, whereof they make themselves the Standard, by which they measure that of all other Nations: Those who come nearest to them in their Fashions and Manners, are in their Opinion the genteelest; and these Three Cantons are, for that Reason, allowed by them to be the most Polite. I confess that a graceful Gesture and Complacency of Manners, tho' not absolutely necessary, are little Advantages easily attain'd, and yet not to be contemned; but to lay great Strefs upon such Trifles, and to take them for true Politeness, is quite mistaking the Shadow for the Substance. Nay even as to the Exterior Air and Manners, in my Opinion, all Imitation is disagreeable. Every Nation has its peculiar Fashions best suited to the Genius of the People; and what is most Natural, will always be most Becoming. So that for one Nation to imitate another, is going out of its Character, and never turns to the Advantage of the Imitator. The *French* have the Glory of seeing themselves followed in their

Modes more than any other Nation, and at the same time the Pleasure of making abundance of awkward Mimicks, for want of considering, that what is the natural Effect of the Gayness and Levity of that Nation, renders a more Flegmatick People ridiculous, that endeavours to Copy them.

If the People of these Three Cantons, have suffered themselves to be infected by the Neighbourhood of *France*, with some Vices that are not of their natural Growth, I believe they have learnt from them some good as well as bad Qualities; and particularly owe to the Example of the *French*, the Sobriety that reigns among them. The *Switzers* have always pass'd in the World for great Drinkers, and still have that Character; yet I must do them the Justice to say, that how well soever they may have deserved it formerly, it would be very unjust to reproach them with it at present. The common People of most Countries are apt to give into that Vice, and so does the *Swiss* Peasant; but for the People of Fashion, whether Men of Business or of Pleasure, the Practice of it is very rare among them, especially in these Three Can-

**Cantons.** They have indeed Publick Feasts, and solemn Occasions of Rejoycing, wherein Excesses are committed, but their ordinary Habit and Course of Life is certainly very sober. I am not indeed so well acquainted with the way of living in the other Cantons; but by what I have heard of them, I may venture to affirm of the *Switzers* in general, that they are the least given to drinking, of any Nation or Race of People sprung from the *German* Stock.

I wish I could as easily justify them of another Crime laid to their Charge, which is the Corrupt Administration of Justice. But that Vice is too palpable to be denied, and would argue too great Partiality in me, if I should pass it over in Silence. It is certain, that in the Petty Cantons and the Common Bailliages, Justice is almost venal, and that the greatest Profits of their Bailiffs arise from the Partial Execution of it. All Criminal Offences, that are not Capital, among them are generally punish'd by Fines, which are applied to the Bailiffs Use, and it often happens, that in Civil Causes the best Purse carries it. I should be glad I could say, that this Corruption reign'd

only in the Catholick Cantons, and Common Bailliages ; but it must be owned, that, tho' it be incomparably less in the Protestant Cantons than in the others, yet even among them, the Judges are sometimes tempted by Presents to favour the wrong Cause ; and their Bailiffs are not wholly free from Extortions. Not that the Sovereign there does any way approve such unjust Proceedings ; on the contrary, there are very severe Laws against Offenders of that kind ; but as every Member of the Great Council has been, or may be one time or other in the same Case, such sorts of Complaints are not too nicely sifted into, but rather accommodated between the Parties, unless the Case be so flagrant, that the Sovereign for his Honour is obliged to take Cognizance of it ; and then the Bailiff is sure of being punished. Injustice and Extortion in never so small a degree, are certainly Faults not to be allowed in any Government : But if it be consider'd on one side, that the only Fortunes, which the Citizens can make in their own Country, arise from the Profits of their Bailliages, and on the other, that the Subjects pay  
little



little or nothing to the Sovereign, it ought not to appear very strange, if they connive at some few irregular Exactions. In those Cases it is, that they look with an indulgent Eye upon the Petty Failings of Men, oppress'd with numerous Families and narrow Fortunes: And in this Sense one may venture to say, it is harder for poor Men, than for rich, to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; for tho' I will not lay it down for an Universal Truth, that rich Men are honestest than poor, yet, I think, I may boldly affirm, that poor Men often yield to Temptations, which they would resist, if they were easie in their Fortunes.

The Women of this Country, generally speaking, are handsome and well shaped: But those that live in the Neighbourhood of the Mountains, are subject to Wens or swell'd Throats. These Excrescencies always disfigure a Person more or less, and sometimes make Monsters: For I have seen some of them half as big as one's Head. It is generally believed, that these Swellings are caused by Drinking Snow Waters, which cannot be avoided by the People of the Mountains; for in the  
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Summer the Sun melts the Snow, which mixes with their other Waters, in spite of all they can do to hinder it. The Men have these Wens as much as the Women; but as Beauty is more the Woman's Property, and that the Men can better hide that Deformity by their Coats and Cravats, it is much more offensive and conspicuous in the one, than in the other. However this Malady reigns chiefly among the common sort of People; the others either are free from it, or else stop it from growing to a Head, by early and constant Remedies they take for that Purpose.

The Women want no Charms either in their Persons or Conversation, especially in the Three Cantons of *Berne, Fribourg* and *Soleurre*, where they receive Visits with the same Freedom as in *France*; tho' in some others, where they are not often allowed that Liberty, want of Practice makes them a little puzzled in their Behaviour to Strangers. They have, generally speaking, the Reputation of being Chast, and certainly are good Houfwives; tho' perhaps their Chastity among the Protestants, is as much owing to their Poli-

Political Institutions, as to their Complexions or Devotion. For as on one Side, all serious Gallantries pass for Crimes among them, much more than in other Countries, and are punished as such, when found out; so on the other, all Incentives to Love are in a manner retrench'd. All publick Spectacles, such as Plays and Opera's, are forbid; there are no Balls or Dancings allowed, but in case of a Wedding; and all fine Cloaths, with Silver or Gold, Jewels or Lace, are prohibited to both Sexes. Thus the Temptations, to which their Women are exposed, are fewer and weaker; while the Motives to deter them, are more and stronger than in other Countries. So that the Law and Custom discountenancing all Gallantry, and the early Cares of a Family taking up their Time and Thoughts, there are few of them, that busie themselves in Love-Intrigues, which seem to be the Effects of Idleness and Luxury among the Women of other Countries.

But to conclude this Chapter by epitomizing their Character; the *Switzers* are a People equally brave in Arms, and faithful to their Engagements; who have

have more Esteem for the Military Virtues, than for the Civil Ones, yet are desirous to live in a perpetual Peace themselves, and to make War for others. They are perfectly able, when united, to defend themselves against any Invader; but not in a Condition to make Conquests upon their Neighbours. Their Country is crowded with People, which generally make the Riches of other Nations, but for want of Trade, increase the Poverty of this. It produces none of the Superfluities of Life, and not enough of the Necessaries; yet by the Advantage of their Situation, both are supplied them by their Neighbours at reasonable Rates. It happens to be placed almost in the Center of *Europe*, without being thoroughly known, and they are courted for their Valour by some of their Neighbours, who scarce allow them any other good Quality. One may say of their Republicks, as of private Men: They are placed in a certain Mediocrity of Fortune, which puts them below Envy, and above Contempt. One finds among them none of the gaudy Pleasers of Courts, but a great deal of the Satisfaction, which proceeds from

a quiet easie Life. In short, they have more Wit, and perhaps less Sincerity, than the World allows them; and seem to conceal some of the Subtleties of the *Italian*, under the Frankness of the *German*. Their Virtues are natural to them; and their Vices chiefly owing to the Temptations, which Men struggling with Difficulties are apt to fall under.

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## C H A P. VII.

*Of their Religion.*

**I**N the Course of this Relation, I have already taken Notice of the Difference of Religion among the Cantons, and distinguished the Catholicks from the Protestants. But as the Tenets and Doctrine of the former are too well known, to need any Explanation, what I am going to say upon the Head of Religion, is to be understood of the Latter. I have only to observe of the Catholicks, that they are thought to be the most zealous and bigotted of any in *Europe*, partly from the Ignorance wherein they are Educated, and partly from their Mixture with the Protestants. For it has been long observed, that where the Two Religions are tolerated in the same Country, the Enmity upon that Account is greater, than between the Professors of each, who are of different Nations. Because where People of different Persuasions live together, and are obliged

ged to have a continual Intercourse one with another, the likelihood of making Converts is greater, from the Propensity of the common People to reason among themselves about religious Matters. The Clergy therefore, to prevent these Desertions among their Flocks, take more Pains to raise the Aversion and Horror of the People against the Religion of their Adversaries, than in a Country where there is but one Religion profess'd. From which Reason it proceeds, that the Roman Catholicks in *Switzerland* do really entertain most frightful Ideas of the Protestant Religion, and act in Pursuance of them, upon any Question that arises about it.

It were to be wished, that the Protestants agreed, like the Catholicks, in Doctrine and Discipline, as well as in one common Name; but they are unhappily so divided into several Branches, that the general Denomination of Protestants does not sufficiently denote the Species. Therefore to explain it further, the Protestant Cantons are of the Reformed Religion, as it was establish'd in *France*, and as it now subsists in *Holland*, both in Doctrine and Discipline.  
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They embraced the Reformation at the same time, that the great Revolution in Religion happen'd. While *Luther* preach'd in *Germany*, and *Calvin* at *Geneva*, *Zuinglius*, *Oeca Lampadius*, *Bucer*, *Bollinger* and others, were carrying on the same Work at *Zurich*, *Bazil*, and other Parts of *Switzerland*. There was at that time so general a Disposition to shake off the Yoke of Papacy, and reform the Abuses crept into the Romish Religion, that it is highly probable, the Change would have been universal in that Country, if the Controversie had been decided by Scripture and Reason. But the Catholics not thinking fit to trust their Cause to the Force of Argument, had Recourse to their best Expedient, Arms, and made War upon such as embraced the new Opinions, as they were then called; wherein they were so successful, that they got the better of the Protestants, particularly in a Battle fought at *Coppelen* in 1531; by which Means, they stopt the Progress of the Reformation, reducing by Force to the Romish Religion many that had deserted it, and fixing others that were wavering. Notwithstanding which Success,  
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more Battles were fought between them before they could come to any Temperament; in one of which, *Zuinglius* himself was kill'd. At last both Parties growing weary of the Civil War, a Religious Pacification was made, by which it was, among other things, stipulated, "That every  
" Canton should regulate Religious  
" Matters, as it thought fit, in its  
" own Dominion, each retaining the  
" Religion it then professed, and en-  
" gaging not to molest any of the o-  
" thers upon that Account.

This Agreement was made in 1531, and restored Peace to *Switzerland*; not but that some Dissentions have since happen'd among them, which have broke out into Wars, but they have always been of short Continuance; the Desire of living in Peace, imposing upon each Party a necessity of mutual Toleration in their common Bailliages, where there is often a Mixture of both Religions; whose Disputes have nevertheless given Rise to all the Wars, that have hitherto happen'd between the Cantons.

The Protestant Cantons having thus settled themselves, and their Religi-

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on in Peace, and fearing, that Differences among them in Point of Doctrine might probably arise, if not prevented in time, summon'd a Synod of all the Protestant Clergy of *Switzerland*, in order to establish an Uniformity in their Articles of Faith, as well as in Point of Discipline. This Synod met in 1566, and drew up the Articles of their Belief, so well known under the Title of *Confessio Helvetica*, which has ever since been universally received in all the Protestant Churches of that Country. In this Confession of Faith, they have embraced the Opinions of *Calvin* about Grace, Free-will, Election and Predestination, in their utmost Rigour; and since the Tenets of *Arminius*, which had for some time divided the Reformed Churches, were condemned by the Synod of *Dordrecht*, they oblige all Ministers, before they can be admitted into Holy Orders, to swear to maintain and defend the Reformed Religion, as it is contain'd in the *Helvetic* Confession, and to oppose to their utmost *Arminianism*, and all other Doctrines contrary to the said Confession.

Tho' there be a Toleration of both Religions in the common Bailliages, as I have already observed, yet there is none in the Cantons themselves: Among them, every Body must conform to the Establish'd Religion of the Canton, or leave the Country, tho' they be Natives. It is sufficiently known and felt, that the Roman Catholicks suffer the Exercise of no Religion but their own, where they are the Masters; but it might be expected, that the others should have some Indulgence for Protestants, who dissent from them. They are not indeed so void of Christian Charity, as to imprison, or inflict corporal Punishment on them; but they oblige them to retire out of the Country, with full Liberty however of selling their Estates, and carrying their Effects along with them.

The Protestant Cantons have not been much troubled with Sectaries since the Reformation; so that their Endeavours to establish an Uniformity, both in Doctrine and Discipline, have been hitherto very successful, yet they have not been totally free from them: And in the Canton of *Berne*

particularly, Two Sects have sprung up, which would probably have spread further, if they had not been crushed in the Beginning. One of them is called the *Pietists*, and the other the *Anabaptists*. The former have no particular Tenets in Point of Doctrine, that I could ever discover, and pretend only to a greater Sanctity of Life, and Purity of Manners, than their Neighbours. What distinguishes them, is, that they abstain from the Publick Worship of the Church, some under the humble Pretence of their unworthiness to appear in God's House; and others, because, they say, they cannot edifie by the Preachings of worldly-minded Men, whose Lives are a Contradiction to their Doctrines. In short, these Pietists seem to be a Sect of ancient Hypocrites, revived under another Name: For those, who have observed their Manners, find most of them to be puff'd up with spiritual Pride, and fraudulent in their Dealings, making use of the Mask of Religion, the better to surprize the easie and credulous. Such of them, as us'd to go about dogmatizing, in order to make Converts, have been banished;

nished; but those that keep their Opinions to themselves, are not taken notice of.

As for the Anabaptists, their Sect is not new in the World; but was so in the Canton of *Berne*, 'till of late Years, when it began to make so considerable a Progress among the common sort of People, that the Sovereign was forc'd to interpose his Authority, in order to put a Stop to it. They have two Tenets, whereof one renders them obnoxious to all Sovereigns, and the other makes them particularly unfit to be suffer'd in *Switzerland*. The first is, that they do not willingly acknowledge the Power of Magistrates, or take an Oath of Fidelity to the Sovereign, as a Pledge of their Obedience: And the Second, that they hold it utterly unlawful to bear Arms, even in Defence of their Country. This last Opinion is not only destructive of the End, for which Publick Societies of Men were instituted, which was Self-Preservation, but is more particularly dangerous here. In most other Countries, the Sovereigns have standing Troops in constant Pay, ready to be employ'd in

their Defence, when it is necessary; but in this, they keep no regular Troops on Foot, and rely entirely on their Militia; so that if this Opinion, of the Unlawfulness of bearing Arms, should prevail, they would become a Society of Non-resisting Christians, who must necessarily fall a Prey to the first Invader. And in Fact, the Government of *Berne* perceiv'd, that several of their Peasants, who were enroll'd in their Militia, began to excuse themselves, upon Scruples of Conscience, from marching when they were commanded: So that it was thought high time to put a Stop to this growing Evil; which, if it had spread, must have ended in the Dissolution of their State. Therefore they began to apply the Remedy, by banishing all their Teachers, and putting a Price upon the Heads of such of them, as should be found in the Country after a certain time, declaring, they should, in Case of Disobedience, be punished with Death. Some of them, upon this Proclamation, retired out of the Country; whereof a few returned in a short Space of Time, and were executed, as fast as they

they could be apprehended. But the Sovereign finding, that other Teachers sprung up daily in the room of those that were banish'd, and yet thinking it too cruel, to put People to Death for Matters of Conscience, resolv'd to go to the Bottom of the Evil, by banishing all Anabaptists in general. Some of them left their Country voluntarily, and others were carry'd out by Force; so that several Hundreds have been sent Abroad at different Times. The last Convoy of them, consisting of about Three Hundred, was sent to *Holland* above three Years ago; since which time, there has been no more Talk of them in the Canton of *Berne*, and the Sect seems to be quite extinguish'd there.

The most plausible Reasons alledged by them, for not tolerating Protestant Dissenters, are grounded only upon Political Considerations. They say, that if they should tolerate them, their powerful Neighbours of the *Romish* Church, would perhaps from thence take Occasion to demand a Toleration of Catholics; that it is found by Experience, that no Controversies are handled with so much Warmth, as Religi-

ous ones; that those Sorts of Disputes ever have an Influence upon the State, which, tho' managed with never so much Moderation, raise Parties that must necessarily weaken it, and when push'd with Violence, as they generally are, often endanger the Subversion of the Government; That the Catholick Cantons are continually upon the Watch, to take Advantage of them, and would not fail to support the Dissenters against the Establish'd Church, to gain a Party to their Interest, and to play the two Parties one against the other, in order to ruin the Whole. For these and other Reasons, they say, it is inconsistent both with their inward and outward Security, considering their Situation, to tolerate Dissenters in their Country. They grant indeed, that if divers Sects had taken Root among them from the time of the Reformation, and grown together with it, they should not think it just to extirpate them by violent Means: But since there has been a perfect Uniformity of Worship from that Time, they think themselves sufficiently authorized, by Divine and Humane Laws, to crush any Sect in  
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its Infancy, which if left to its self, would infallibly produce a Schism in the Church, and Divisions in the State.

But to pass on from the Form of their Religion, to the Effects of it, I may safely say, that, in all outward appearance, it produces very good ones on the Lives and Manners of their People. One cannot but observe among them, a regular Attendance on the Divine Worship in their Churches, and great Exactness in receiving the Sacrament at the stated Seasons of the Year; insomuch that, neither Master nor Servant, who would not pass for something more than a bad Liver, ever fails the Holy Communion at those fixed times. The Magistrate takes all possible Measures to prevent Debauches of any kind, and no Publick Vice, that may give Scandal, goes unpunish'd; so that such, as will be more wicked than their Neighbours, must take care to keep their Vices from the knowledge of the Publick, and be Hypocrites at least, if they will not be virtuous. They are very Charitable both on publick and private Occasions: They have not only Hospitals well endowed, but give to common Beggars  
more

more frequently, than is practised with us. When the *French* Protestants came into their Country in Swarms, just after the Revocation of the Edict of *Nantes*, they exerted their Charity at an uncommon rate in these Cantons, every Citizen lodging and feeding some of them in his House for a considerable time; so that to do them Justice, one must own, that both in Relation to the poor of their Country, and to those of others in any great and common Calamity, they give Examples of Christian Charity much surpassing those of many other States, who are superior to them in Power and Riches.

Their Clergy, generally speaking, lead very Exemplary Lives, and such as do not, are sure of being degraded. They are very Laborious; so that few of them make less than two or three Sermons a Week, which they always Preach without Book, and deliver with proper Action, keeping a Medium between the Theatrical Gestures of the *French* and *Italian* Preachers, and the cold Unactiveness of our own. They have a great deal of Power and Credit in some of the Cities, particularly  
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in *Zurich, Geneva and Neufchatel*; where they take too great a Liberty of handling matters of Politicks in their Sermons, and endeavour to work up the Passions of their Auditors to their own Views and Opinions. This Practice may sometimes be of Use to a State, but in general is thought dangerous; for which Reason the Clergy is never allowed in the Canton of *Berne* to touch upon those Points: There the Sovereign confines them to Subjects, that belong to their Profession; and in other Cases, as well as in this, keeps the Clergy in a greater Dependence upon them, than any of the other Protestant Cantons.

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## C H A P. VIII.

### *Of their Trade.*

**W**E find by Experience in *Holland*, that a Country, tho' it have neither good Havens, nor abound in native Commodities proper for Exportation, may yet drive a prodigious Trade, provided there be great Numbers of Inhabitants employed in Manufactures, and that the Carriage and Transportation of them be cheap and easie. But it is not to be expected, that a Country like this, should flourish by Trade, that is situated out of the reach of the Sea, and among Mountains passable only by Mules, to Transport their Commodities. So that the Unhappiness of their Situation, and the Difficulty and Expence of Land-Carriage, together with the want of native Commodities to export, or of Industry in the Inhabitants, to supply that Defect by establishing Manufactures, are so many powerful Reasons, that have concurred to discourage  
Trade

Trade in this Country. For it is certain, there is no where so small an Appearance of it as here; and that they think so little of enriching themselves that way, that they are contented to buy of their Neighbours all the Conveniencies, and most of the Necessaries of Life.

All the native Commodities, that are exported from *Switzerland* into other Countries, are Horses and Black Cattle, with their Produce, Butter and Cheese. *France* buys yearly, in time of War, great Numbers of the Former for remounting their Cavalry, as well as for their Trains of Artillery; insomuch that I have known Ten thousand Horses bought in this Country in one Year, for the use of the *French* Armies. The King of *Sicily*, during the late Wars, has generally used *German* Horses for his Cavalry, and *Swiss* ones for his Dragoons and Artillery; but if he should be at War with the Emperor, and all the Passes from the Empire be stopt, he has no Ressource but in this Country. Great Numbers are likewise sold in the *Milanese*, and other parts of *Lombardy* for Coaches; so that this Commodity may be reckon'd the most profitable Branch

**Branch of their Trade.** As to Black Cattle, they vend likewise good Numbers of them in *Italy*; and for their Cheeses, they are famous all over *Europe*.

These Commodities are common to all *Switzerland*; but there are Five Towns in it, where a general Trade may be said to flourish, in Comparison of the others; they are *Zurich*, *Bazil*, *Schaffhausen*, *Geneva*, and *St. Gal*. *Zurich* is famous for the Manufacture of Crapes, which they make in perfection, and vend in great Quantities all over *Europe*: And *St. Gal* is no less renowned for Linnen, which tho' not comparable to that of *Holland*, yet the great difference in the Price, gains them the Preference among the common sort of People in these Parts, and even among the Gentry, who are not rich enough to be very nice in their Linnen. The other Three Towns are not distinguish'd by any particular Manufacture: But *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen* being situated upon the Frontiers of the Empire, are convenient Magazines for Merchandize to be exchanged between *France*, *Italy* and *Germany*; which Trades bring Employment, and consequently

sequently Profit to their Inhabitants, among whom are several considerable Merchants.

At *Geneva* the People are naturally industrious, and do not only encourage all Sorts of Trade in their City, but readily receive good Workmen from any other; whereof there are great Numbers of *French* Refugees, who have introduced several Manufactures, that were not known there before; by which Means it is become the most flourishing Town of all *Switzerland*, and generally supplies the rest of it with their best Commodities, even to the Furniture of their Houses, because their Workmen are reckon'd the most fashionable. Besides their Manufactures, they have several Bankers of note, who have Dealings in most of the trading Towns of *Europe*; and, during the last War, negotiated great Sums of Money, both for *France* and the Allies. Some of them suffered indeed considerably by their Loans to *France*; but others, that had the good Luck to get themselves repaid, made prodigious Gains by the Great Interest they received for their Money. To these Advantages, if you add that  
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of their Situation, which makes them a convenient Mart for Merchandizes to be interchanged between *France* and *Italy*, it will not appear strange, if that City thrive by Trade.

The other Towns of *Switzerland* have no more Trade, than is necessary for supplying their Inhabitants with what they want; and their Traders may more properly be called Shopkeepers than Merchants.

With the Profit arising from the Sale of these few Commodities and Manufactures, the *Switzers* must buy great part of the Necessaries and Conveniences of Life. They have neither Corn nor Wine enough of their own Growth, and are supplied with both from the *Milanese* and *Circle of Suabia*. They have no Salt in their Country; yet are so far from wanting it, that *Tyrol*, *Franche-Comté* and *Bavaria* vye one with another, who shall sell it them at the cheapest Rate. The Cantons usually take it of those that are nearest to them, to lessen the Expence of Land-Carriage, and have constant Treaties with the Owners, for supplying them yearly with a certain Quantity at a fixed Price. Thus the Sovereign of each



each Canton is the Merchant of Salt; and makes a Profit by selling it out again to the People by Retail. 'Tis true of late Years indeed, a Mine of Salt has been discovered in the Canton of *Berne*, near *Aigle* upon the Frontiers of the Country of *Valais*, which in time may be sufficient for that whole Canton, and perhaps for all *Switzerland*, if the Success be answerable to Appearances; but at present it produces a small Quantity in Proportion to the Consumption. Besides these Necessaries, most of the Superfluities of Life must be brought from abroad; since they either want them totally, or have them not in sufficient Quantities.

In the next Place it is to be observed, that as they have no Manufactures of Wool, Hair or Silk, whatever is necessary for Apparel of Men or Women, or for Furniture of Houses, comes likewise from abroad. They make indeed some coarse Stuffs for cloathing their Peasants; but all other Ranks of People are clad with the Manufactures of other Countries; nay even their Handicraft-Men are, generally speaking, such Bunglers in their Trades, that the better sort of People

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Numbers of *French* Protestants left their native Country, after the Revocation of the Edict of *Nantes*, many of them retir'd into *Switzerland*, and try'd to establish several Manufactures there; but not being sufficiently protected and encouraged by the Sovereign, and being on the other Hand persecuted by the Native Citizens, who will not suffer any Foreigner to exercise his Trade in any of the Capital Cities, they were forced to give over their Design, and removed into other Countries, that gave them a more kind Reception. By this Means the Protestant Cantons lost the best Opportunity, they perhaps will ever have, of erecting useful Manufactures at home. The Privileges granted to the Citizens, of excluding all Strangers from exercising any Trade, might be justified, if they could work as well themselves; but since they are neither good Workmen themselves, nor will suffer Strangers, that are so, to live among them, there is no Hopes of seeing any useful Manufactures flourish. This Difficulty I take to be greater, than that arising from the want of Materials

als of their own Growth; so that 'till the Sovereign find out some way of limiting the Privileges of their Citizens, so as to make them consistent with the Publick Good, the *Switzers* will always be cloathed by Foreigners, and drain'd of their Mony, to pay for other People's Goods and Labour.

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## C H A P. IX.

### *Of their Revenues.*

**T**HIS Country, considered in general, being naturally barren, and the Inhabitants ill supplying that Defect by their Commerce, the Publick Revenues cannot be very considerable; the rather, because the Cantons are so indulgent to their Subjects, as to content themselves with the usual Regalia, appropriated every where to the Sovereign, without laying any additional Taxes upon them. However, if the Wealth of a State is to be computed, like that of a single Person, by the Income in Proportion to the Issues, some of these Common-wealths ought not to be called Poor. For tho' their yearly Incomes be small, yet they are greater than their Expences; so that they can afford to lay up a little Sum every Year, which in a long Course of Time amounts to a considerable Treasure. For it has been often observed, that a Commonwealth, among

mong many Defects in other Points, has two great Advantages in OEconomy over a Monarchy; one that it is a much better Husband of the Publick Treasure, because it diffipates none of it to gratifie private Pleasures or Passions, which is frequently practis'd among Princes; and the other, that it spends much less in the ordinary Charges of the Government, by sparing the Expences of a Court, Guards, and other Sorts of Magnificence, which hath been by some called properly enough, The Embroidered Part of the Government.

When I say, Some of the Commonwealths of *Switzerland* ought not to be called Poor, I mean those with Cities; for the Petty or Popular Cantons have scarce any publick Revenues, but tax themselves by Voluntary Contributions, according as the present Occasion requires. Nay I have been assured, that when some of them have got together in their Treasury, about the Value of a Thousand Pistoles, the Communities have more than once agreed to divide that Sum

among themselves, and apply it to their Private Use; tho' after it was done, they have from time to time forbid the like Practice for the future.

I shall therefore say nothing of the Revenues of the Petty Cantons, as not worth mentioning. And among the Seven others with Cities, it is to be observed, that the Revenues of the Protestants are, in Proportion, greater than those of the Catholicks, because the former are in Possession of the Church-Lands, which were seized at the time of the Reformation; Our of the Revenues whereof, they do indeed maintain their Clergy; but that Expence does not amount to near the Income arising from them. The Catholick Cantons with Cities, are *Lucerne*, *Soleurre* and *Fribourg*; all which have Publick Revenues; but so small, that, by what I can learn, when the Annual Charges of their Government are defrayed, there remains little to be laid up in the Publick Treasury

*Bazil* and *Schaffhausen*, tho' small Cantons in Extent, yet by their Trade are richer in Proportion than the Three Catholick Ones, and always have

have a Sum in their Treasury, ready for any sudden Emergency. But the Two Cantons, which may properly be called rich, if compared with the others, are *Zurich* and *Berne*; whereof the former, by the Advantage of Trade, is perhaps the richer in proportion to its Territory, but the latter is so much larger, that, I believe, its Income is double.

The Revenues of the Canton of *Berne* arise from five Branches. First, The Lands or Demesnes of the Sovereign. Secondly, The Tenths of the Fruits of the Lands. Thirdly, A certain Tax upon Rural Lands, which they call in *French*, *Cenfes Foncières*. Fourthly, Duties or Customs upon Merchandize. And Fifthly, The Revenue arising from the Sale of Salt. The First Article produces great Quantities of Corn and Wine, which they lay up in Magazines, erected for that Purpose in the several Bailliages, and sell again to the People, when they think fit. The Second, consisting in the Tenths of the Fruits of all the Lands of the Canton, except some few Seigneuries of the Gentry, which by their particular Tenure are exempted from

from that Tax, must needs run very high in so great a District of Country. The Third is a Tax upon such Lands, as are not possessed by Gentlemen, like the *Taille* in *France*, and may amount annually to about a *French Livre* per Acre. The Fourth produces but little, both because their Trade is small, and because the Duty imposed on Merchandize is very easie, in Proportion to the Value. The Fifth Branch arising from Salt, is very considerable, because the Sovereign alone sells it by Retail to the Subject, and imposes upon it what Price he thinks proper. There is another Tax in use, called in *French*, *Le Lod* or *Le Lot*, which is a Fine amounting to the Sixth part of the full Value of any parcel of Land or Estate, payable upon every Sale to the Sovereign by the Buyer. But this Tax being purely casual, no just Estimation can be made of its Produce.

I have not been wanting in my Endeavours, to find out what Sum these several Taxes may produce yearly, in the Canton of *Berne*; but could not get any Satisfactory Account, because its Revenues consisting chiefly in the Sale of Corn and Wine, are more or less,



less, according to the Price those Commodities bear; and as the Sovereign sells none in cheap Seasons, it happens, that during some Years together, they put little or no Money into the Treasury, and at other times, lay up in one Year the Revenue of many.

Thus much is certain, that this Canton, and that of *Zurich* are the only Two, that may be properly said to have Sums of Money in their Coffers. *Berne* in particular, has at this time 300000 Pounds Sterling at Interest; yet that Sum, as I am credibly inform'd, makes not a Sixth Part of what remains in the Treasury. *Zurich* has likewise good Sums; tho' not near so much as the other. They who venture to guess at their annual Revenues, compute those of *Berne* at 300000 Crowns at least, and those of *Zurich* at above half as much; whereof they say about two Thirds go to defray the Ordinary and Extraordinary Charges of the Government. By which Computation, *Berne* lays up about an hundred thousand Crowns a Year, and *Zurich* above Fifty. If this Calculation hold, there must be the Produce of a great many Years, to make up the Sums  
those

those two Cantons are supposed to have at present in Bank. But this is only a Conjecture, which I am not able to make out by any good Proofs: Wherefore I chuse rather to leave the Point of the Revenue of each Canton undetermin'd, than venture, as a late *Venetian* Author has done, to fix it without sufficient Authority.

As to the other Cantons, I have already observed, that the Six Popular ones have, properly speaking, no fixt Revenue; and that of the Seven others with Cities, the Three Catholick Ones, *Lucerne*, *Soleurre* and *Fribourg* have little more, than what is necessary to defray the ordinary Charges of their Government. However, that little Overplus serves to put them in a Condition of maintaining, for three or four Months, the small Number of Troops, which they can send into the Field: And for the Two small Cantons of *Bazil* and *Schaffhausen*, they are at least as well provided with Money, as any of the Catholick Ones, in proportion to the Number of their Militia.

It is to be observed upon the whole, that the Sums, which each Canton has in its Publick Treasury, are the only  
Funds

Funds they can reckon upon in case of a War. Other States have recourse to extraordinary Means, in those Difficulties; but here it is not practicable to impose New Taxes; since, if a War should break out, the greater Part of the Subjects, on whom they are to be levy'd, would be employ'd in their Militia. However, as *Switzerland* will, in all appearance, seldom have any Wars, but Religious ones, and those only among themselves, I doubt not but the People, out of Duty to their Sovereign, and Zeal for their Religion, would contribute all they could to the Defence of both. But a War of any Continuance would so ruin their Country, that they would not be in a Condition of paying new Taxes for the Support of it: So that such Cantons, as have not ready Money when a War breaks out, must not expect, that their Militia should keep long together, to make War at their own Expence; and consequently must lye expos'd to all the Dangers and Incursions of a Defenceless People.

## C H A P. X.

*Of their Militia.*

**T**HE Cantons of *Switzerland*, from the first Institution of their Governments, never kept in Pay any standing Troops. All their Military Expeditions, during their Wars with the House of *Austria*, were perform'd by their Militia, which were paid by their respective Cantons, while they kept the Field, and dismiss'd as soon as the Campaign was ended. However they gain'd so much Experience in the Course of that long War, that their Troops had the Reputation of being the best Soldiers in *Europe*. Since that War ended, they have pass'd above two Ages in Peace, unless one would reckon the Skirmishes that have happen'd among themselves, by their Intestine Divisions upon Religious Accounts; but they were of so short Continuance, in proportion to such a Length of Time, that they can scarce be called an Interruption of a Peace of  
Two

Two Centuries. The first remarkable Rupture of that kind happened in 1531; the Second in 1656; and the Third in 1712. The two former turn'd much to the Advantage of the Catholics; but the Third, which lasted four Months, was so favourable to the Protestants, that they would have entirely subdued their Enemies, if they had thought fit to have pursued their Conquests, or rather, if the Neighbouring Catholick Princes would have stood Neuter in the Quarrel.

A Disuse of War, during so long a Tract of time, has given Rise to an Opinion, that the *Switzers* are much fallen from their ancient Valour; tho' I hear no Proofs alledged to support it. On the contrary, it is known to all *Europe*, that the Troops of that Nation in Foreign Service, have behaved themselves, during the two last Wars, with equal good Conduct and Bravery; so that the Accusation in short, will be found to amount to no more than this, that new-raised Troops are not so good as Veterans, which is a Position that no Body will deny in general.

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The Cantons urge several Reasons, why it is improper for them to maintain standing Troops. First, they say, they are taught by the Experience of all Ages, that a Standing Army endangers the Liberty of a Country, and has often overturn'd Governments. Secondly, That very few of them are rich enough, to maintain constantly such a Body of Troops, as may be sufficient to secure them from the Power of their Neighbours. And Thirdly, That a standing Army maintain'd by any of the Cantons in time of Peace, would raise such Fears and Jealousies among the others, that all *Switzerland* would be in a continual Alarm; so that the Powerful Princes in their Neighbourhood would infallibly interpose, and oblige such as were arm'd, to disband their Forces. In order therefore, to maintain their several Civil Governments in perfect Freedom and Independence, to lay up Mony for a time of War, and to avoid giving any Jealousie to their Neighbours, none of the Cantons think fit to maintain any standing Troops; insomuch that the Burghers do Duty, and mount the Guard at the Gates of their Capital Cities.

ties. But to supply this Defect, and to be in a Condition of defending themselves from any sudden Invasion, they have taken great Pains to put their Militia in good Order. And because it passes for the best regulated of any in *Europe*, I think it may be worth while, to give a particular Account of the Foot upon which it stands, in the Canton of *Berne*, according to their last Establishment, which is followed in all the other Cantons, as far as their Riches will allow them to go.

In the Canton of *Berne*, the whole Body of the People, from sixteen to sixty, is enroll'd in the Militia; whereof about a Third is regimented under the Names of *Fusileers* and *Electio-naries*, to which the other Two Thirds serve for Recruits.

The *Fusileers* are the First Draught, consisting of the Flower of the People, both for their Age and Size, and are all unmarried, that they may be ready to march at an Hours warning, where-ever the Service of their Country requires; which Men encumbered with Wives and Children cannot so easily do.

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The Second Draught, called Electionaries, consists of married Men, of an Age and Size proper for Service.

These two Bodies, when they are in Service, are recruited out of the Two Thirds that stay at home; that is, the Fusileers out of the Batchelors, and the Electionaries out of the married Men.

Each Regiment of Fusileers consists of ten Companies, making two Battalions; and each Regiment of Electionaries of Twelve Companies, besides the Field and Staff-Officers.

The Companies of the first Sort are of an hundred and ten Men, including eighteen Officers High and Low; and those of the latter are of two hundred and eighteen, including thirty Officers of all Sorts.

Every Man that is listed, provides himself with Arms at his own Expence; and the Regiments are all armed in an uniform manner, after the newest Fashion; for which Purpose, there is an Officer called a *Commissioner of Arms*, whose Business it is, to inspect their Arms and Mounting, to take Care they be conformable to the Standard, and to punish such as fail in those Particulars.

Since



Since the Late War in *Switzerland*, they have likewise introduced an Uniformity in the Cloathing, and all their Troops are now Cloath'd with grey Cloth, tho' with Facings of different Colours, to distinguish the Regiments.

The Canton of *Berne* found, by the Experience of the last War, that Cavalry was of very little Use to them in a Country so Mountainous and inclosed; therefore they have since converted all their Light-Horse into Dragoons, except One Regiment of Cuirassiers, which the Vassals are obliged to maintain at their own Expence, by way of Homage to their Sovereign.

Each Regiment of Dragoons consists of Ten Troops; and each Troop of Sixty Men, every Regiment making Five Squadrons.

As to their Arms and Accoutrements, they are according to the new Fashion, and uniform like the Infantry: And their Horses are also of the Men's own Providing, none being receiv'd into the Dragoons, but Substantial Farmers, who always keep Horses for their other Occasions.

Tho' the Militia, both Dragoons and Infantry, provide their Horses,

Arms and Accoutrements at their own Expence, and receive no Allowance from the State, while they stay at home; yet when they are in Service, their Pay is settled upon the following Foot, double Pay being allowed to the Officers the First Month, to enable them to put themselves in Equipage.

*Pay of the Field and Staff Officers.*

	<i>French Livres.</i>
A Colonel <i>per Month</i>	240
Lieutenant-Colonel	180
Major	165 10
Aide Major	75
Adjutant	48
Chaplain	75
Chirurgion.	48
Clerk	24
Prevot	18
Total	<hr/> 873 10

*Pay of a Company.*

Captain <i>per Month</i>	120
Captain-Lieutenant	90
Lieutenant	75
Second Lieutenant	60
Ensign	48
Each Serjeant	15
	Each

Each Under Officer	12
Each Corporal	8
Each Drum and Fife	7
Each Appointée	7
Each Soldier	6

The Pay of the Fuzileers, Elector-naries and Dragoons is the same, with this little Difference, that the Dragoon Officers are supplied with Forrage *gratis*, which the Foot-Officers pay for; and the Private Dragoon has Six pence a Day, and Ammunition-Bread; whereas the Foot Soldier receives but Four Pence *per* Day, the other Two Pence being deducted for his Bread.

The Officers in both have this further Advantage, that every Field-Officer is allow'd Two Servants paid by the State, upon the Foot of Common Soldiers, and each Captain and Subaltern, One.

The State likewise supplies the Soldiers with Hatchets, Kettles and Tents, reckoning five Men to a Tent; all which are returned into the Arsenal at *Berne*, when the Service is over.

Tho' the Militia be always armed, as I have already said; yet there is kept

in the Arsenal at *Berne*, an entire new Set of Arms for the whole Militia of the Canton, ready to be delivered out in case of Accident. And as a further Provision, there is a third Set of Arms for the Militia of each particular Bailliage of the Canton, kept in a little Arsenal made for that Purpose, in every Castle, where the respective Bailiffs reside.

In each Bailliage is likewise kept a Sum, amounting to Three Months Pay for the whole Militia of that Bailliage; which Mony was raised upon the several Communities for that use many Years ago, and is reserved for any pressing Occasion: Insomuch that the State did not think fit to touch any of those Sums during the last War, but rather to supply the Expences of it out of their Publick Treasury at *Berne*. Nor indeed can it be disposed of without the Consent of the several Communities; since the chief of each has one Key to the Iron Chests, wherein it is kept, and the Bailiff another, that it might not be made use of, but when both the Sovereign and People should find it necessary.

As to their Artillery, there is a very large and fine Train kept in the Arsenal at *Berne*, ready to March upon the least Warning, besides a good Number of Cannon dispersed up and down, in the Castles where the Bailiffs reside.

For the Service of this Artillery, there are Three Companies of Cannoners, and one of Bombardeers, of an hundred Men each, with their proper Officers, which are kept in constant Pay, and are under the immediate Command of a Waggon-Master-General.

As for Horses and Waggon for the Use of their Train, and of the Ammunition and Bread-Waggon, every Community in the Canton is taxed to furnish the necessary Number, and each knows the Proportion it is to send, which they get ready upon the first Notice.

There belongs likewise to the Train of Artillery, a Company of an hundred and Twenty Men of several Trades, such as Carpenters, Smiths, Wheelwrights, &c. ready to make or repair, whatever may be wanting for the Service.

There is also a Company of Guides actually listed, who have their Captain, Lieutenant and other Officers, and are perfectly acquainted with all the Roads of the Country.

As to the Post of General, or Commander in Chief, no Body has it in time of Peace, the State thinking it best to be at Liberty, to chuse such a Person as they shall judge most proper, when there is Occasion for one: So that the chief Military Officer, who is always in being, is the President of the Council of War at *Berne*. For the same Reason, they do not fill up the Employments of Secretary at War, Commissioners of Victualling, Treasures, Quarter-Masters, Grand Prevot and others, 'till the Army is to march upon Service.

But whenever a General is named for any Expedition, he is accompanied with Deputies from the State, who are always Men of the first Rank, and of great Experience. Without their Consent he can undertake no Military Operation: But when they approve what he proposes, he is at full Liberty to execute as he pleases, and never can be question'd for the Success of  
any

any Enterprize formed by their Advice.

The General, together with these Deputies, disposes of all Military Employments in the Field, but in time of Peace, the Great Council gives them.

Thus I have shewn, in what manner the Militia of *Berne* is regimented and armed; how they are paid in time of Service; and the Dispositions that are made, for supplying all the Wants of a well-regulated Army. But as the chief Objection to a Militia, is their want of Discipline, it will be proper to mention the great Care that is taken of exercising the Officers and Soldiers, as often as their Vocations will give them leave.

In order to it, I must observe, that the Canton of *Berne* is divided into eight Districts; whereof each has an Officer called a *Grand Major*, who has a Salary from the State.

The Duty of these *Grand Majors* is, to take Care, that all the Militia, both the Regimented and the others, be in a constant Readiness to march; and that their Arms, Ammunition and Cloathing be in good Condition, according to the Regulation.

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For that Purpose, they frequently make their Rounds, each Grand Major in his District, to visit both Officers and Soldiers, and draw them out at least once a Year for a general Review.

These Grand Majors have besides, an Officer in every Bailliage of their Districts, called a Commissioner of Arms, whose Business it is to ride all the Year round from one Community to another; to have the Men exercised every Sunday and Holy Day after Divine Service; to take care, that their Arms and Accoutrements be in good Order; to see, that every Community have a proper Room to lay up their Arms in; and, in case of Failure in any of these Particulars, to punish the Offenders according to the Nature of their Fault.

Besides this publick Exercise, there are Butts set up in every Community, where the People at certain times of the Year meet every Day, to shoot with their Muskets, that they may learn to be good Marksmen.

The same Practice is observed among the Cannoneers and Bombarders, who likewise exercise themselves



selves about a Month in a Year, by shooting at Marks with the great Guns and Mortars ; so that all possible Care is taken to make them expert in the Discipline, and Trade of War.

Their Militia being thus regulated, and in a constant Readiness to march, proper Methods are taken for the sudden raising them, upon any Alarm in the Country. To which Purpose, there are all over *Switzerland* certain Signals, set up at proper Distances, which answer one to another. There is one of these Signals in every Bailliage, which stands on the most conspicuous Place, to be the more easily seen. They consist of a Pile of dry Wood, and an Heap of Straw ; the Wood to give the Signal by Fire in the Night, and the Straw by Smoak in the Day-time.

At every one of these Signals, there is a Corporal with a constant Guard of six Men, both Day and Night ; whose Orders are, to set fire to their Signal, upon a sudden March or Irruption of any foreign Troops, or when they see any of their Neighbouring Signals lighted, and to give immediate

ciate notice of it to the next Commanding Officer in those Parts.

When therefore any Alarm is in the Country, the whole Body of the Militia takes Arms, and marches to their several Places of Rendezvous, according to the private Orders given to all the Commanding Officers for that Purpose.

Thus the Militia is settled with so much Exactness, and such Care is taken to have good Store of every thing that may be wanted upon a sudden Emergency, that they may be rather said to be an Army cantoned, than an undisciplined Militia, to be drawn together with such Hurry and Confusion, as those Bodies generally are in other Countries.

An other great Advantage to their Militia, is, that it is the Custom among their Youth, to serve three or four Years in the *Swiss* Troops in Foreign Service; after which time, their Captains are obliged to give them Leave to return home. Thus most of their Farmers and Husbandmen have seen some Service; so that one may look upon a Third of their Troops to be old Soldiers, which help to form and discipline

discipline the rest much sooner than in Places, where the same Method is not practised..

I shall not venture to say, what Number of Men the whole Militia of *Switzerland* amounts to: Others have taken upon them to reckon them up, but without any certain Rule to guide them in their Computation. I shall only observe, that, during the last War in 1712, between the two Cantons of *Zurich* and *Berne* on one part, and the five Catholick ones on the other, there were on both Sides about eighty Thousand Men in Arms, whereof near Forty Thousand were of the Canton of *Berne*, and above Twenty Thousand of that of *Zurich*, tho' only the Regimented Troops were raised; which, as I have already said, make but one Third of their Militia.

This Establishment is actually put in practice, in all its Extent, among the Protestant Cantons: But I believe some of the Catholicks fail in many Particulars of it, because they have not Money to erect Magazines of Corn and Hay, and to supply themselves with several other Necessaries, that are wanted to put an Army in a Condition of taking and keeping the Field.

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## *The Conclusion.*

**A** MONG all the Modern Frames of Government, there is none to be found in the World like that of *Switzerland*, as it now subsists under the Name of the *Helvetic Body*. It is true indeed, that its Fate resembles that of the *United Provinces* in the following Circumstances. Both States were once Provinces subject to the House of *Austria*, which enjoy'd great Liberties; but being both oppress'd, each took Arms in their Defence, and shook off the Yoke of their Princes. Both were obliged to maintain War for near a whole Age against that House, and both forced it at last to own them for independent Sovereigns: Nay the Sovereignty of each of them was acknowledged at the same time, by the Treaty of *Munster* in 1648, tho' the Revolt of the *Switzers* preceded that of the *Dutch* above Two hundred and fifty Years. The latter were indeed

indeed acknowledged to be Free and Independent, by the Truce of twelve Years, concluded between them and the Arch-Duke *Albert* in 1609; and the former were, in effect, declared so by the Hereditary Union, made first between *Sigismund* Arch-Duke of *Austria*, and the *Switzers* in 1477; and afterwards more formally renewed with the Emperor *Maximilian* in 1511. However *Spain* reviv'd its Pretensions to the *Seven Provinces* at the End of the Truce, when the War began again, and the Emperors still kept on Foot their Title to *Switzerland*, 'till the Treaty of *Munster*, when they were both more solemnly declared by their ancient Sovereigns, Free and Independent for ever.

In these common Circumstances, the Fortune of *Switzerland*, and that of the *United Provinces* agree; tho' their Frame of Government, and the Figure they now make in the World, are too different to admit of any Comparison, unless it be by way of Opposition.

But tho' there be no present Form of Government like that of the *Helvetick Body*; yet among the Ancients, the

*The Conclusion.*

the Commonwealths of *Greece* bear so great an Analogy to those of *Switzerland*, that if one did not know the Frame, into which the latter is cast, to be the Work of meer Chance, one could not help thinking, that some Legislator had proposed ancient *Greece* for his Model. Of which two Forms, it may not perhaps be amiss to shew the Resemblance in several Instances.

As the Cantons of *Switzerland* were formerly subject to Princes, whose Yoke they shook off on Account of their Tyranny, and erected themselves into Common-wealths; so were the Cities of *Greece* first subject to Kings, whose Oppression obliged them all by Degrees to expel them, and change the Forms of their Government.

The Commonwealths of *Greece* were situated between the two powerful Monarchies of *Persia* and *Macedon*, whereof each endanger'd their Liberty in its turn. The Princes of the former were called the *Great Kings* by way of Eminence, and were so dangerous Enemies to the *Grecians*, that they not only invaded at Pleasure their Colonies on the Coasts of *Asia*, but more than once march'd prodigious  
Armies

Armies into the Heart of their Country; particularly the two Kings *Darius Hydaspes*, and his Son *Xerxes*. The Kings of *Macedon* indeed, for a long Tract of time, were not powerful enough to do them any Harm, but by Degrees' came, through the Advantage of their Neighbourhood, to be no less dangerous than the *Persian*; especially in the time of *Philip* the Father of *Alexander* the Great; who first turn'd his Views towards the Conquest of all *Greece*. The Cantons of *Switzerland* are likewise situated between two great Princes, the Emperor and the King of *France*; whereof the former has made several fruitless Attempts to reduce them to Obedience, since the time of their Revolt; but either despairing of Success, or being diverted from those Attempts by greater, the House of *Austria* has liv'd in Peace with the *Switzers* for above two Ages; as the Kings of *Persia* never form'd any considerable Enterprize against the *Grecians*, after the Death of the above-mentioned *Xerxes*. Since the time that the *Persian* Kings quitted their Designs upon *Greece*, no Enemy arose so formidable to those Commonwealths, as

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*The Conclusion.*

the Kings of *Macedon*; among which, both *Philip* and his Son *Alexander* made several Conquests upon them; the latter particularly overturned the State of *Thebes*, and destroy'd their City: So the Kings of *France* are now become the most dangerous Neighbours of the Cantons of *Switzerland*. It does not appear as yet indeed, that they aim at the Conquest of it, as *Philip* and his Successors did at that of *Greece*, because the Temptations are not the same. *Greece* is a fertile Country, and those Commonwealths were rich; whereas *Switzerland* is poor and barren, and the People are so fond of Liberty, that tho' it should be conquer'd, it would cost more to keep it in Subjection, than its Revenues can amount to. But the King of *France* will always have his Views of keeping the *Switzers* in an indirect Dependence, by influencing their Counsels, and engaging them to supply him with a good Body of their Troops; which is all the Advantage he could reap from that Country, if it were his own. In order to which, the Catholick Cantons are crowded with his Pensioners, just as *Demosthenes* complains, that *Athens*,



*thens*, and the other *Grecian* States were with those of *Philip*.

Thus the Situation of the *Grecian* Republicks, in relation to their Powerful Neighbours, engaged them to enter into a mutual Confederacy for their common Defence; and, as often as Occasion required, to hold Diets, composed of Deputies from the most considerable of them, where the proper Measures to be taken for the Good and Safety of *Greece*, were debated, and Orders given for putting in Execution the Resolutions they took. These Deputies were called the *Amphictyones*, or *States-General* of *Greece*, which first usually assembled at *Thermopylae*, and afterwards at *Delphi*. So it is well known, that the *Switzers* have their Diets or *States-General*, composed of Deputies from each Canton, whose Business is the same, as that of the *Amphictyones* was; and that the Motive of joining them in this Fœderal Union, was the same mutual Defence against their Powerful Neighbours. Notwithstanding which, each Canton remains an Independent Sovereignty, just as the *Grecian* Commonwealths did.

### The Conclusion.

The Parallel between the Republics of *Greece* and of *Switzerland* holds, not only in Relation to their Political Constitution, and Situation, but also in the Success of their Arms. The surprizing Acts of Valour performed by the *Grecians* against the Armies of *Darius* and *Xerxes*, have been at least equalled by those of the *Switzers* against the House of *Austria*. The Battle of *Morgarten*, where Thirteen hundred *Switzers* routed the Arch-Duke *Leopold's* Army of Twenty thousand Men, and kill'd above twice their own Number of the Enemy, may be put in Competition with the Battle of *Marathon*; and that of *Sempach*, wherein the same Arch-Duke lost his Life, and his Army of near Twenty thousand Men, was beaten by Sixteen hundred *Switzers*, if considered in all its Circumstances, was a more surprizing Victory, than that of *Plataea*. And to crown all, the Battle fought near *Wesen* in the Canton of *Glaris*, may not only be compared to that of *Thermopylae*, but seems to be a Copy of it, that exceeded the Original. For as Three hundred *Spartans* attack'd the *Persians* in that narrow Pass, and all perish'd

perish'd in the wild Attempt; so Three hundred and fifty *Switzers* not only attack'd, in such another Pass, an Army of Eight Thousand *Austrians*, (according to the lowest Accounts, for some Authors say, they were Sixteen Thousand) but gain'd the Field of Battle. This Victory is celebrated every Year with great Solemnity, by a Publick Procession in the Canton of *Glaris*, and eleven Pillars are erected in the Field of Battle, to mark the Places where the *Switzers* rallied: For their History says, that they were repulsed ten times; but rallying the Eleventh, broke the Enemy's Army, and put them to Flight with great Slaughter. These Pillars still subsist as Monuments of their Bravery; and the People on the Day of Procession, return Thanks to God at each of them for so signal a Victory. When they come to the last Pillar, one of their best Orators is chosen to make the Panegyrick of these Three hundred and fifty Men; who, when he has finish'd his Oration, reads over a List of their Names, just as History says, the *Spartans* caused the Names of their Three Hundred Citizens, who fell at the

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Battle of *Thermopylae*, to be cut in Brass, to transmit their Memories to Posterity.

To carry on the Parallel, the Commonwealths of *Greece* had their Intestine Divisions and Civil Wars, as well as Foreign Ones. The two most powerful, *Athens* and *Sparta*, waged a War of Twenty Seven Years, which had no better Foundation, than a Jealousie between them for Precedence. The two most Powerful Commonwealths of *Switzerland*, which are *Zurich* and *Berne*, have not yet been so unadvised, as to make War one against another upon that Account: However it is well known, that their common Enemies use all their Arts to raise Jealousies between them, and to encourage *Berne* to claim the Precedence of *Zurich* in Rank, as it already has it in Power. But as *Berne* has been hitherto wise enough to reject such Insinuations; so it is hoped, it will always be too cautious to give into a Snare, which must end in the Ruin of both States, and in the Triumph of their Common Enemies.

Nay the Commonwealths of *Greece* had their Religious Wars too, as well

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as those of *Switzerland*. The *Phocenses* were declared Sacrilegious, for having plowed up some Lands belonging to the Temple of *Delphi*, and appropriated to their Divine Worship: Upon which, a sort of Sentence of Excommunication was issued out against them, and *Philip* of *Macedon* undertook to put it in Execution. Accordingly he made War upon them, wherein he was so Successful, as to Conquer them, and then demanded Session in the Council of the *Amphictyones*, as a Member of their Body, in the Room of the *Phocenses*, whom he had subdued. The *Grecians* were so imprudent, or so tame, as to give him Place among them; from which time, he became Arbitrator of all their Differences; and by that means *Macedon* would probably have soon given Law to all *Greece*, if he had lived long after, or if his Son *Alexander* had not been taken off from those Views by pursuing greater in *Asia*. It is likewise well known, that the Commonwealths of *Switzerland* have had no other Wars among themselves, but Religious ones; and that one of that kind broke out in 1712, which ended in a Peace so advantageous to the Pro-

*The Conclusion.*

testants, that there is yet no Reconciliation between the Parties. During these Divisions, the view of the King of *France*, like that of *Philip*, seems to have been, to get himself declared Sole Arbitrator of their Differences: And if one may judge by Appearances, he still endeavours to be acknowledged as such, in a new Alliance, which, it is thought, he will take the first good Opportunity of proposing to them; but it is presumed, the Cantons are too wise, to suffer any Foreign Prince to interfere in their Domestick Affairs; and that the Examples of all Times will teach them, that a Powerful Neighbouring Prince, erected as Judge among little Commonwealths, will soon find means to prescribe 'em Laws, and shew them, there is no Difference, in that Case, between their Judge and their Master. If they continue so prudent, as to avoid this Snare, 'tis probable the *Switzers* may preserve their Liberty, as the *Grecians* did, between two Great Princes, 'till such a Resistless Power, as that of the *Romans*, arise again, and over-run all *Europe* with its Conquests.

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APPENDIX.

CONTAINING

*An Account of the* ALLIES

OF THE

*SWITZERS.*

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## A P P E N D I X.

*Containing an Account of the Allies  
of the Switzers.*

**T**HE Allies of the *Switzers* are, the *Grisons*, the County and Town of *Neufchatel*, the Abbot and City of *St. Gal*, the *Valesians*, the Republick of *Geneva*, and the Towns of *Mulhausen* and *Bienne*. But it is to be observed, that there are few, if any, of these distinct Governments, that are allied equally to all the Thirteen Cantons: They are so respectively but to part of them, and generally to such, as are of the same Religion with themselves, tho' the Allies of each distinct Canton be acknowledged as such, by the whole *Helvetick Body*.

What I have said of the Soil and Climate, of the Manners and Dispositions of the *Switzers*, is so applicable to their Allies, that they are to be considered

sidered as Part of the same People. Therefore I shall only add such a further Account of their several Districts and Governments, as may serve to distinguish one from another, and give the Reader a general Idea of each.

### Of the Grisons.

THE most powerful of their Allies, both for Extent of Country, and Number of Inhabitants, is the Republick of the *Grisons*. Their Country was called *Rhetia* by the *Romans*; and now consists of three Provinces, joyn'd for their common Defence in a Fœderal Union, like that of the *United Provinces*, and forming one State, under the Title of *The Republick of the Three Leagues of the Grisons*; their Leagues or Alliances one with another, having given the Name of League to each Province. The First bears the Name of the *Grey-League* both in *German* and *French*, or the *Grison-League* properly so called; which being the most considerable of the Three, has communicated its Name to the whole Country. The Second is called the *League of God's House*,

*House*, because the Bishop of *Coire* lives in it. And the Third, the *League of the Ten Jurisdictions*, as consisting of so many Communities.

The Country is bounded on the North, by the Province of *Suabia* in the *Empire*; on the South, (including their conquered Countries of *Valtellina*, *Chiavenna* and *Bormio*) by the States of *Milan* and *Venice*; on the East, by the County of *Tirol*; and on the West, by the Cantons of *Ury*, *Glaris* and *Appenzel*.

The People were formerly subject to several Princes; some to Petty Sovereigns, some to the Bishop of *Coire*, and others to the House of *Austria*. Those that were under the First, either bought their Liberty, or became Free by the Extinction of the Families of their Lords. The Bishops of *Coire* by degrees lost all their Power, chiefly at the time of the Reformation; so that at present, they have no Share or Influence in the Affairs of the Government; and the House of *Austria* has at several times sold so many of its Rights, that it has nothing now left in that Country, but the little Lordship of *Retzems*, of which the *Grisons*

*sons* are the direct Sovereigns. By these degrees the *Grisons* became Free and Independent, and erected themselves into a Democratical Commonwealth, whose Sovereign Power is lodged intirely in the People; every Man in the Country, from Sixteen Years of Age, having an equal Vote, as in the Petty Cantons; tho' they have a better Method of collecting their Voices, than that of drawing together the whole Body of the People.

Each League is divided into Communities, which have so many Votes. The *Grey* or *Grison-League* has Twenty Seven; that of *Gods House* Two and Twenty; and that of *The Ten Jurisdictions* Fourteen; which makes in all Sixty Three. Thus all Resolutions about their Publick Affairs, are determined by the Plurality of Voices; that is, the most Voices in each Community from the Opinion of that Community, as the Votes of the Plurality of the Communities form the Resolution of the Republick, upon the matter in Question.

Each of these Communities is governed by its own Municipal Laws and Customs, chuses its own Magistrates, and is a sort of Petty Sovereignty, like the Cities in *Holland*. The several

several Communities of each League have their Provincial Diets, formed by a Deputy from each Community; where they annually chuse their Head or Chief, with other Officers of that Particular League, and do not ill resemble the Provincial States of the *United Provinces*.

Besides the Particular Diets, which consider only of the Affairs of their own League, there are four Sorts of Diets or Congresses in use among them, composed of Deputies from all the Three Leagues, which meet about the Affairs of the Republick, as often as Occasion requires.

The Chief Assembly called, a General Diet, is composed of a Deputy from every Community, that has a Vote, besides the three Chiefs; and is held once a Year in each of the Three Leagues by turns, the Chief of the League, where the Diet is held, always presiding. The fixed time of the Meeting of this Diet, is towards the end of *August*. Its chief Business, besides any Extraordinary Affairs that may happen, is, to hear Law Suits, and examine the Publick Accounts; which Matters usually take up about Three Weeks time. The

The Second is a Half-Diet, as it is called, consisting of half the Number of Deputies; so that two Communities send but one Deputy between them, which they agree to chuse by Turns. This Half-Diet has no fix'd Times of meeting, being convened only when it is thought necessary.

The Third is called a Congress, consisting only of Three Deputies for each League, besides the Chiefs. It usually meets once a Year, about the Beginning of *March*, for the ordinary Affairs of the Government, and is always held at *Coire*, as well as the other publick Meetings, except the General Diet, but more for Convenience, than from any Right annexed to that City.

The Fourth is a Meeting only of the Three Chiefs of the Leagues, who assemble some little time before the General Diet, to prepare Matters for their Deliberation.

But it is to be noted, that besides the stated Times of Meeting, any of these Assemblies are summoned extraordinarily, as often as the Domestic Affairs of the Government require it; or any foreign Minister, who has

has any Matter to propose to them, demands it.

However, in all these Meetings, the Deputies are so ty'd up by their Instructions, that they cannot by themselves take a final Resolution upon any Matter in Debate: They can only deliberate upon it, and report their Opinions to their Principals, who debate the Matter anew in their several Communities, and decide the Question by the Plurality of Voices, each Community sending up its Opinion in Writing to the next Congress, when the Resolution of the State is form'd by the Votes of the Plurality of the Communities.

Thus it appears, that the Sovereignty resides intirely in the Body of the People: However, as the Communities generally chuse the ablest Men for their Deputies, it seldom happens, that any Community, upon the Report of its Deputy, gives its Vote contrary to his Opinion; so that in Effect, this Republick is govern'd by a few Leading Men. Yet such of them, as have engaged the People in bad, or (which is all one with the Multitude) in unsuccessful Measures, have often paid

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for it with their Heads, as well as in the Petty Cantons.

Both the Reformed and the Roman Catholick Religions are tolerated in the Three Leagues; But as the Protestants make at least two Thirds of the People, and that all their Resolutions are decided by the Plurality of Voices, this Republick may be deemed a Protestant State; and of all the Cantons, is only allied to *Zurich* and *Berne*.

They have but two Bailliages within the Compass of the Three Leagues, which are *Meyenfeld* and *Malantz*; to which they send new Governors every two Years. But they have eight or nine more Governments in the *Valtelline*, and the Counties of *Bormio* and *Chiavenna*; which three Provinces formerly made part of the Dutchy of *Milan*; but were dismembered, and yielded to the *Grisous* by the *Sforza's*, when they were Dukes of it, in consideration of their Military Services, much about the same time, that the Four *Italian* Bailliages were given to the *Switzers* for the same Reason.

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These three Provinces are properly Subjects of the *Grisons*, and have no Share in their Government. The Inhabitants are all of the Catholick Religion; and such Care is taken to prevent any Mixture of Protestants, that by the Treaties between the Kings of *Spain* as Dukes of *Milan*, and the *Grisons*, it has been always stipulated, " That no Protestant shall inhabit  
 " there above Six Weeks in the Year;  
 " during which Time he shall have  
 " no Exercise of his Religion, nor the  
 " Governours themselves be permitted  
 " to much as to keep a Chaplain in their Houses. But as this Treaty expired with King *Charles* the Second, late King of *Spain*, it is scarce believed, the *Grisons* will renew it upon so hard a Condition.

The *Valtelline* consists but of One large Valley of about Ten Leagues long, tho' it is one of the most fruitful in the World. It produces Corn, Wine, Oil and Fruits, all most delicious in their Kinds. The two other Counties of *Chiavenna* and *Bormio* are likewise very fertile, but not in so great a Degree. The *Valtelline* is a Country as valuable, for its  
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being a Passage between *Germany* and *Italy*, as for its Fertility; and is of great Conveniency, for preserving the Emperors Communication between *Germany* and *Milan*. Whether the House of *Austria*, or King of *France* should have the Key of those Passes, was a Question, which armed a great Part of *Europe* in the last Age, and occasion'd the War of the *Valtelline*, which lasted near twenty Years, from 1620, to about 1646: Wherein at last the House of *Austria* got the better; and the Liberty of using those Passes, was granted to the King of *Spain* by the Treaty or *Capitulate* of *Milan*, made in 1639.

It is to be observed, that both the two Bailliages in the three Leagues, and those of the *Valtelline*, and of *Chia enna* and *Bormio*, are disposed of by every Community in its turn, and by them sold to the highest Bidder: So that they are not very profitable to the Governors, who can raise but little more out of them, during the two Years of their Government, than what they give to purchase them.

The Publick Revenues of this State are very small, tho' there be many pri-

private Persons in it that are rich : However in case of any extraordinary Emergency, they tax themselves in Proportion to the Necessity of the Service, and to People's Abilities.

*Of the Counties of Neufchatel and Valangin.*

**T**HESE two Counties, tho' in some manner independent one of another, as to their Government ; yet are otherways so united, that they are always subject to the same Prince, and together form a little Sovereignty of about Twelve Leagues in Length from North to South, and of about Sixth in Breadth, and is situated between the County of *Burgundy* and the Canton of *Berne*, the City of *Neufchatel* standing upon the Lake of that Name. The Soil of the Country is generally stony, but produces the best Wines of *Switzerland*; from the Sale whereof proceed the surest Revenues of its Inhabitants. Not only the natural Tongue of the People is *French*, but their Humours and Manners partake much more of that, than of the *German Nation*: So that having generally

rally more Vivacity than the rest of the *Switzers*, and not being wholly exempt from Vanity, they are usually called in Raillery, The *Gascons* of *Switzerland*.

This Country has always been subject to Princes; but the People have constantly enjoy'd under them so great Privileges, that they may justly be called Free. Upon the Death of the Dutchess of *Nemours* in 1707, who was the last Countess of *Neufchatel*, as Heiress of the House of *Longueville*, the States of the Country adjudged the Sovereignty of it to the late King of *Prussia*, as Heir by his Mother to the House of *Orange*, which derived its Title to *Neufchatel* from the Marriage of one of its Princes with the Heiress of the House of *Chalons*, the direct Sovereign of those Two Counties. There were at that time several Competitors to this Sovereignty, descended from the House of *Longueville*; upon which Title they grounded their Pretensions, and called themselves Heirs by Blood: But the States, upon full Examination, found, that the House of *Longueville* had no Legal one to it, as having  
never

never been called to succeed by the Investitures granted by the House of *Chaulons*, whereof *Neufchatel* was an undoubted Fief; and therefore declared, it reverted to the Heirs of that House.

The *Venetian* Author, of whom I formerly made Mention, speaking of this Matter, says, that the Country of *Neufchatel*, having been once a Fief of the *Empire*, granted to the House of *Chaulons*, must necessarily be so still, otherwise the King of *Prussia*'s Title falls to the Ground; and that, if it be acknowledged to be a Fief of the *Empire*, it belongs to the Emperor to give the Investiture to whom he please; which Right he cannot renounce without the Consent of the whole *Empire*. But in Answer to that Objection, I need only say, that *Neufchatel* is part of *Switzerland*; and that *Switzerland* has not only been actually independent of the *Empire* for several Ages, but formerly declared so by the *Empire* it self at the Treaty of *Westphalia*. Tho' if his Doctrine be generally true, that Fiefs of the *Empire* cannot be legally alienated without the Consent of the *Empire*, I doubt he will be extremely

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puzzled to prove the Title of the Republick of *Venice* to the greatest Part of their Territories in the *Terra Firma* of *Italy*.

The former Counts of *Neufchatel* had always a Governor residing there, assisted by a Council of State; but the King of *Prussia* has yet sent none, leaving hitherto the Management of Affairs to that Council; tho' its probable he will think it proper, e'er it be long, to employ one with that Character.

The City of *Neufchatel* is governed by a Council of Sixty Burghers, and, as I said before, enjoy so great Privileges, that they are almost Independent. One of which is, that they are Com-Burghers or Fellow-Citizens with the Canton of *Berne*; which is not only their particular Protector, but the declared Arbitrator of all Differences arising between their Prince and Them. So that, as it is the Interest of that Canton to maintain them in their Freedom, and more especially was so, while they were under Catholick Princes, *Berne* generally supports them in all Disputes with their Prince.

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The People are all of the Reformed Religion, except two small Villages, called *Cresier* and *Landeron*, where they are Catholics. The Counts of *Neufchatel* were formerly Allied to the Cantons of *Berne*, *Lucerne*, *Soleurre* and *Fribourg*; but since the States have given the Investiture to the King of *Prussia*, that Alliance seems to be dropt with all but *Berne*; and 'tis a Question, whether it will ever be renewed with the other Three.

*Of the Abbot and City of St. Gal.*

THE Abbot of *St. Gal* is Head of a Convent of Benedictine Monks, which from a small Beginning is increas'd to Great Power and Riches, insomuch that the Abbot is now Sovereign of a considerable District of Country, called, *The Patrimony of St. Gal*, lying between the Canton of *Zurich* and the Lake of *Constance*, besides the County of *Tockenbourg*, which is contiguous to it, and was purchased by one of his Predecessors for a trivial Sum. He assumes likewise the Title of Prince of the *Empire*; but having neither Vote nor Session in their Diets;

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his Rank there is merely Titular. The Abbots of *St. Gal* were formerly Sovereigns of the City of that Name, and of good Part of the Canton of *Appenzel*; but both the one and the other bought their Freedom; so that they have at present no manner of Dependence upon him; the City of *St. Gal* now forming a little Commonwealth without any Territory. The Sovereignty resides in a Great and Little Council, as in all the Cities of *Switzerland*, but leaning to the Aristocratical Kind. It is one of the most trading Towns of the whole Country, and is particularly Famous for Linnen Cloth. Both the Abbot and the City of *St. Gal* have the Privilege of sending Deputies to the General Diets of the Thirteen Cantons, who have Session there, but no Vote; the Abbot being United by his Religion to the Catholics, as the City of *St. Gal* is to the Protestants, all its Inhabitants being of the Reformed Religion. The Four Cantons, that are particularly allied to the Abbot, are *Zurich, Lucerne, Schwitz* and *Glaris*, who are in some Manner the Protectors of the Convent; and the City of *St. Gal* is



is strictly allied to the Protestant Cantons.

The Abbot of *St. Gal* has made a great Noise in the World of late Years, by the differences that have arisen, about the Privileges of his Subjects of the County of *Tockenbourg*; and because few People are well informed of that Dispute, I think it may not be amiss, to give the Reader some Account of the State of that Matter.

The last Count of *Tockenbourg* having no Heir of his Family, out of Love to his Subjects, granted them so great Privileges before his Death, that he made them in a manner a Free People. Among the rest, he gave them the Liberty of making Municipal Laws for their own Government, of chusing their Magistrates and Officers, of entering into an Association for their Defence, which every Body in the Country took an Oath to maintain; and for the further Security and Corroboration of these Privileges, he gave them leave to enter into a Treaty of Comburgership with the Canton of *Glaris*, in order to engage that Canton to support them in their Rights, as their Fellow-Burghers. According to these

these Regulations, the Sovereignty was so clipped, that there was little more left for his Successor, than the Right of collecting the Revenues, that made part of the *Regalia*, together with the Power of obliging the Subjects to serve him in his Wars. This was the State of the Country, when the Count of *Tockenbourg* dyed in 1436, and was succeeded by the Counts of *Raren*, his Heirs at Law. Soon after his Death, all these Regulations were put in Execution; and particularly the Treaty of *Comburger*ship was made with the Canton of *Glaris*, with the Knowledge and Consent of the Counts of *Raren*, who ratified it, and after having kept this Country above Thirty Years, sold it to the Abbot of *St. Gal* in 1469, but with an express Reservation of all the Rights and Privileges of the Inhabitants: To which the Abbot not only consented, but ratified them anew himself. However, he had no sooner made this Purchase, but he endeavoured, contrary to his Engagements, to abolish these new Privileges. The greatest Difficulty he found in his way, was the Treaty of *Comburger*ship with *Glaris*, which engaged that Canton to support them

them in their Rights : Wherefore all his Arts and Skill were employed in detaching *Glaris* from their Interest, concluding, he could easily get the better of them, if they were left to themselves. The first Step he made towards it, was, to oppose the Renewal of the Treaty of Comburgership, which, by the Tenour of the Treaty it self, ought to be renewed every Ten Years; but not being able to hinder it, he got the Canton of *Schwitz* to be admitted into a Sort of Partnership, and those two Cantons declared Joint-Arbitrators of all Differences, that should arise between him and the People of *Tockenbourg* about their Privileges. It would be endless to enumerate all the Arts, that have been since used by him and his Successors, to render this Treaty of Comburgership ineffectual: Notwithstanding which, *Glaris* continued constantly to support the *Tockenburghers*; insomuch that of late Years, the Abbot brought his Complaints against that Canton before the General Diet, and accused them of abetting the *Tockenburghers* in Rebellion against their Sovereign. The Deputies of *Glaris* alledg'd in their Defence, that they had  
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done nothing, but what was agreeable to the Tenour of the Treaty of Combergerhip, allowed and approved of by the Abbots themselves; and set forth so plainly the Justice of their Cause, that all indifferēt Persons approved their Proceedings. However; for the Preservation of Peace in the *Helvetic Body*, many Endeavours were used at several succeeding Diets, to compose this Difference; but without Success: In the mean time, the Abbot found ways of gaining over to his Interest, the Leading Men of the Canton of *Schwitz*, and some of the Catholics of *Glaris*; by which means, the *Tockenburghers* were not only deprived of their usual Protection, but condemned in all their Disputes with him by those two Cantons; so that the Abbot having cut off that Remedy from them, began to Exercise a Sort of Arbitrary Power in the Country, and openly violated all their Privileges. The People fly to their usual Protectors for Relief, but finding them quite changed, they have recourse to the Two Protestant Cantons of *Zurich* and *Berne*. These Two Cantons, as well for Reasons of State, as of Religion,

gion, espouse their Cause, and send a Solemn Deputation to the Abbot, to exhort him to redress what had been done irregularly, and to maintain them for the future in their Religious and Civil Rights, contained in a Particular Memorial, which they delivered to him at the same time. The Abbot refuses positively, to restore their Privileges upon the Foot contained in the Memorial: Whereupon the Deputies of the two Cantons go into the Country themselves, put all things again upon the old Foot, promise the People their Protection, in case of any new Violence, and so return home. Upon this, the Abbot complains again to the Diet of the two Cantons: And as Religion is in some Measure concerned in the Dispute, it soon became a Party-Cause in the Diet, the Catholicks maintaining the Abbot, and the Protestants the *Tockenburghers*. However, finding the two Cantons of *Zurich* and *Barne* would not withdraw their Protection from those People, the Abbot, to take all further Cognizance of the Matter from the Diet, bethinks himself, as his last Shift, of declaring to them, that the Country of *Tockenbourg* was

a Fief of the *Empire*; that the Emperor had the sole Right of deciding any Disputes, that might arise about it; and particularly, that the Two Cantons of *Zurich* and *Berne* had no Right to concern themselves in that Matter. Upon this Declaration, the Diet broke up, that was convened in 1708; and tho' several succeeding Ones have endeavour'd to compose the Difference by divers Expedients propos'd, yet the Abbot would kearken to none, still insisting, that it was a Fief of the Empire, whereof he had lately taken the Investiture from the Emperor, to whom alone the Cognizance of this Difference did belong. This Dispute continued in the same uncertain State 'till *April* 1712; at which time, the Abbot sent some Troops, which he had hired, into the County of *Tockenbourg*, to subdue those People. They apply themselves again to *Zurich* and *Berne*; who immediately march Troops to their Succour, and so the War began between them and the Abbot of *St. Gal*, with his Confederates the Five Cantons of *Lucerne*, *Ury*, *Schwitz*, *Underwald* and *Zug*. Wherein the Protestants beat the Catholics in two pitch'd

pitch'd Battles, took from them the County of *Baden*, and several other Places, which were yielded to them by the Treaty of Peace made in *August* following. As for the Abbot himself, the two Cantons at the same time seized all his Country, whereof they still remain in Possession: Nor is it likely they will restore it, till the Abbot ratifies the Treaty of Peace signed by his Plenipotentiaries at *Roschach* in *April* 1714; by which Treaty the People of *Tockenbourg* are confirmed, more solemnly than ever, in their Privileges, and the two Cantons of *Zurich* and *Berne* declared Guarantees of them.

All I shall say further about the Convent of *St. Gal*, is, that tho' it be a very rich One, yet the Abbot of it can make but a very poor Figure, as a Sovereign Prince; and is wholly unable to maintain any War with his Neighbours, without the Assistance of good Allies.

### *Of the Republick of Valais.*

THE *Valesians*, or People of *Valais*, inhabit a Country, that takes its Name from one Great Valley, where-

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of it consists. It reaches from the Mountain called *La Fourche*, where the *Rhone* takes its Source, to the Lake of *Geneva*, and is divided by that River, which runs thro' the middle of it, and often overflows a great Part of the Country.

This Valley is situated between the Canton of *Berne* and *Savoy*, but is divided from them by vast high Mountains, whereof the Tops are always covered with Snow; however they afford Pasture for great Numbers of Cattle in Summer, and the Valley produces Corn, Wine, and Delicious Fruits.

The Capital of it is *Syon*, the Seat of a Bishop, who is a Prince of the *Empire*, and was formerly the Sovereign of a good Part of the Country; but his Power dwindled away by Degrees, and a Commonwealth rose out of the Ruins of it. However, he is still in much greater Authority than the Bishop of *Coire*, presides in their Councils as their Head, and has a great Influence in the Management of their Affairs.

The Country is divided into the *Upper Valais* and *Lower*; whereof the former is subdivided into Seven independent Communities, like those of the *Grisons*, and the latter into Six. Upon the Destruction of the Bishop of  
*Syon's*



*Syon's* Power, the Inhabitants of the *Upper* and *Lower Va'ais* fell out among themselves about the Sovereignty of the Country; in which Contest, the *Upper Valais* got the better by their Arms, and have ever since remain'd the Masters; tho' the People of the *Lower Valais* enjoy great Privileges under them. The Seven Communities of the *Upper Valais* send Deputies to their Diets, as the *Grisons*; and their Commonwealth is governed in the same manner.

The *Valesians* are the most ancient Allies of the Canton of *Berne*; but the latter having embraced the Reformation, and the former continuing Catholicks, the Difference of Religion has broke the bands of their Friendship: So that, tho' the Alliance be still in force, the *Valesians* have since made a new One with the Catholick Cantons; to whom they are more closely United by their Zeal for Religion.

### *Of the City of Geneva.*

THIS City is so well known, and has been so often described by Travellers, that it would be a need-

less Work for me to give a particular Account of it. Every Body knows, that it is a little Republick, with a small Territory, situated between *France* and *Savoy*, at the Head of the Lake that bears its Name; and that it is the largest, as well as the most flourishing City in *Switzerland*, whose Inhabitants are no less Ingenious than Industrious, and equally cultivate both Trade and Letters.

The Bishop of *Geneva* had formerly great Power, if not the Sovereignty of the City; but upon the Reformation he lost that, and his Bishoprick together. The Pope indeed still continues to nominate a Bishop of *Geneva*, as well as of *Lausanne*, and other Places in the Hands of the Protestants; but they are Bishopricks that yield no more Revenue, than those he disposes of *in Partibus Infidelium*.

Their present Government is much the same, as in the other Cities of *Switzerland*, consisting of a Great and Little Council, the First of Two hundred, and the Second of Twenty five, besides a Third Council of Sixty Members, which are drawn out of the Great One. They seem'd to lean too much to the Aristo-

ristocratical kind, which occasioned some late Disorders in their Government, that were pacified by the Interposition of the Cantons of *Zurich* and *Berne*. By that Pacification, the Body of the Citizens was admitted to a greater Share in the Government, than it had enjoyed for some Years last past; which they pretend, has only restored it to its Original Form, by retrenching the Power, which the leading Men had usurped in a long Course of Time.

This little Republick was formerly allied to some Catholick, as well as Protestant Cantons; but since the Reformation, the Catholicks have tacitly at least renounced their Alliance; so that at present they are strictly allied only to *Zurich* and *Berne*.

### *Of the City of Bienne.*

**T**HIS little Town is situated at the Head of the Lake of that Name, between the Cantons of *Berne* and *Soleurre*, the County of *Neufchatel*, and the Bishop of *Porentru*'s Country. That Bishop has a sort of Sovereignty over them, but so limited, that they

they may be reckoned a Free People, being govern'd by their own Laws and Magistrates, independent of the Bishop. His Rights consist only in some small Revenues, and the Obligation the People are under, of serving him for his Defence, provided it be not against the Canton of *Berne*: For in that case, they are obliged to stand Neuter. The Reason of this Exception is, because the Inhabitants of *Bienne* are Fellow-Citizens and Comburchers of the Canton of *Berne*; and as they are of the Reformed Religion, one may justly say, they are maintain'd, both in their Civil and Religious Rights, by the Protection of that Canton.

### Of the City of Mulhausen.

THIS City, with a very small District of Country round it, is a Petty Commonwealth, which makes Part of the *Helvetick Body*; tho' it lye out of the Limits of *Switzerland*, being situated upon the River *Ill* in the Upper *Alsatia*, near *Bazil*.

Its Inhabitants embraced the Reformation at the same time as *Bazil*; upon which Account, the two Cities entered

tered into a Treaty of Comburgership, and by that Means *Mulhausen* became a Member of the *Helvetic Body*, tho' more strictly united to the Protestants. Upon which Occasion, it may not be improper to make this general Observation, that whatever Treaties or Alliances may subsist between Protestant and Catholick States in *Switzerland*, one may surely reckon, they will not be executed in case of a Rupture: Then each Member will certainly adhere to those of his own Religion, whatever be the Ground of the Quarrel; and *Switzerland* will know no other Division, than that of Protestant and Catholick.

F I N I S.

